

COUNTY LEAGUE NEWS

on behalf of Cheshire Clubs Cricket Committee (4 Cs)



MAY 1 - MAY 14 2023

That's more like it!

Sun shines at last - the CCCL loves it!

CCCL sides shine in National Knockout

Cheshire miss out on T20 Finals Day

RSK

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Well didn't we need that sunshine! The difference it made to the cricket at the weekend was marked, especially compared to the same time last season. By the time of the equivalent edition last May, there had been 23 centuries across the four 1st XI Divisions – so far this season, before Saturday, there had been just four! Including precisely none in the Premier Division. On Saturday, however, we had five tons (two in the Prem) plus the first 300+ totals, a tie, one batter making almost 70% of his team's 158 total, other superb individual dis-

plays and battling team performances which is testimony to a number of factors - quality bowling being right up there of course! - but the conditions are also clearly playing their part, with sunshine and dryer weather clearly making a difference. In general, though, runs have generally been much harder to come by for teams, as well as for individuals, and we've had some notably low scores already across all four 1st XI Divisions, and with the forecast still unsettled, this may be the pattern of games for a while. One match has really stood out to me, which I want to examine in a little more detail. Now, I wouldn't normally use this column to highlight a specific match but Sale's visit to Urmston for their Div 1 game on May 6th is well worthy of comment. The details of a remarkable Sale run chase in what sounds like an amazing match are on the relevant page of the newsletter, but the salient point here regards the circumstances surrounding Sale's pursuit of 264 to win. After a partnership in excess of 150 (the second of the match) had taken Sale to 185-2 in the 32nd over, rain intervened shortly af-

FROM THE EDITOR

terwards. The Sale match report states that "a tense wait saw ten overs wiped off the innings, leaving Sale 4.1 overs to get 34 runs". That's quite a delay to get that kind of reduction at such a crucial stage. But for Sale, to lose all those overs but see their target remain exactly the same is frankly ridiculous. That's no criticism of the match officials, who were simply applying the regulations as they are written. It's no criticism of either side. And it's no criticism of the league committees or officials, either. The current rules for rain-affected matches are as they are because enough clubs have decided that's how they want them to be - and I for one have never and still cannot understand why! DLS is made for just such situations so that a target can be fairly recalculated, and while I am not going to restate the strong arguments for its implementation in league cricket at this point, given the unsettled weather patterns, I doubt this is the last time I will be visiting the subject.

James

OVER 40s round-up plus news of Cheshire Over 50's, 60's & 70s in the next edition

THE CCCL TROPHY HUNT

Attempts to locate various trophies are still ongoing and all clubs are asked for their urgent co-operation in helping to find where the following trophies are currently residing:



2nd XI DIVISION TWO & DIVISION THREE TROPHY
SUNDAY DIVISION TWO TROPHY
SUNDAY EAST DIVISION 1 & SUNDAY WEST DIVISION 1
ALL OVER 40s DIVISIONAL TROPHIES
THE CCCL AGGREGATE TROPHY

Please get in touch with the newsletter with any information.

TURNING BACK TIME...PART 1

It was the season of 2013, ten years ago, I got a fortuitous break into the world of international scoring. Having recently been encouraged to take on the role of County Scorers Officer in Cheshire, I was informed of a role scoring with the media during the upcoming Champions Trophy that was available. My application was, to my great surprise, strong enough to get me the role and it started an unforgettable experience that was to last for another eight seasons in all. But to get me used to the role, the ECB invited me to come down to Lords to work the first two days of the Eng-NZ Test Match, which opened my eyes to the world of professional cricket in more ways than one!

MAY 16, 2013

It was the fulfilment of a personal dream to walk down the Wellington Rd from St.John's Wood tube station, the sun shining brightly as I made my way through the North Gate, proudly showing off my pass that got me easily admitted - a very nice feeling. I took the steps upto the media centre itself, took a deep breath, and went in. The view was simply stupendous...



I introduced myself to the regular press scorer, who I was to shadow for those two days, and learn what the role of press box scorer



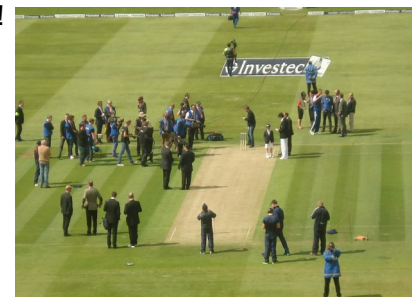
entailed. I unpacked my stuff, first of all discovering just how tight for room things would be in the media centre - everyone has an allocated space and must stick to it. The press box scorer

got two spaces which made us a bit special but the hardened journalists were far less impressed! But I was made to feel welcome and watched the busyness develop (scorers always arrive very early) as the toss time drew near. The photographers all had their briefing - they too have a specific spot on the ground, and the special ones get pitch access - and the steady stream of famous faces going upstairs to the commentary boxes was another



memorable thing. I did have the chance to pop up to see Malcolm Ashton in the TMS box, his the most coveted scoring position of all in the ground perhaps. The hallowed TMS window was open too!

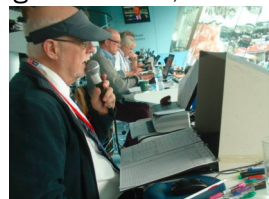
The match itself was quite a staid affair until it suddenly burst into life on the fourth day when NZ collapsed. But the days I was there were pretty tough going for the paying public to be honest - there were weather delays and England took 112 overs making 232 - Brendon McCullum was NZ captain for this match, and I have wondered if days like that convinced him of the need to do things differently! I took in as much as I could, scoring the game, watching the journos at work and also watching my colleague work too, announcing various landmarks and odd stats of interest for journalists to tweet or report - and it would soon be my turn!



Here's the scene pre-toss. How many people?! And, please note, no umpires were allowed anywhere near!



Teatime in the media centre (table 1 of 3!)



Match Details:

Eng: 232 & 213 NZ: 207 & 68

Eng won by 170 runs

Eng: Cook, Compton, Trott, Bell, Root, Bairstow, Prior, Broad, Swann, Finn, Anderson
NZ: Fulton, Rutherford, Williamson, Taylor, Brownlie, McCullum, Watling, Southee, Martin, Wagner, Boult

WK 3 - MAY 6

The remarkable result at Werneth Low was the big talking point of a rain-affected day. **Hyde** and **Nantwich** had met at the same ground on match day 3 last year and played out a high scoring draw, the Dabbers making 291-7 then. But twelve months on, they collapsed sensationally to 44 all out, losing 6 wkts in 3 overs without adding to their score at one stage, and 8 in 6 overs in all, **Luke Young** the destroyer-in-chief with a pacy 6-18. Hyde had a mini-wobble of their own after the showers relented but made it consecutive 6 wkt wins. **Chester BH** also suffered the indignity of a double figure total, their 96 in front of their own supporters giving **Alderley Edge** a handsome 81 run triumph, **Richard Wilkinson's** 49 the highest innings of the match. Champions **Didsbury** added to the list of surprise results going down to a 2 wkt loss at a damp Wilmslow Rd as **Widnes** avenged the two defeats by the same margin they suffered at Dids' hands in 2022. Didsbury could only manage 139 (**Aaqib Uppal** 6-56) and crucially gave 11 additional overs to the visitors, who had to survive a few scares going for the target. Some bold strokes from the lower order as the showers intensified saw them over the line for a fa-

mous win. That left **Neston** as the only team with three wins, a comfortable 7 wkt triumph at Parkgate over **Oxton** securing local bragging rights. Oxton were 65-2 but **Ash Davis** (4-32) sparked a clatter of wkts as the visitors were all out 130. **David Hurst's** 51* secured the pts with bags of overs in hand. The other two matches ended honours even, **Cheadle's** game with **Toft** at Kingsway abandoned 17 overs into the visitors' reply to Cheadle's 211, which from 100-7 was good going. **Andrej Yaksender** was left unbeaten on 99 after last man **Mark Hampson** was run out. Toft were 66-3 when rain ended play. **Brooklands** produced a robust batting display to make 248 against **Grappenhall** (**Jack Bagshaw** 64*), Grappers happy to lose 6 overs from their allocation as they survived on 180-9.

WK 4 - MAY 14

Neston continued their wonderful start with a fourth straight win, this one a superb 95 run triumph at **Nantwich**. Put into bat, Neston were disappointed to be all out 209 after being 170-3 (**Matt Strong** 65, **Ali Chughtai** 56), but a rampaging **Ash Davis** wreaked havoc, the Dabbers shattered at 31-7 and finally all out for 114, Davis an unplayable 7-20.

Alderley Edge won a third game in a row, a convincing 109 run win over a **Hyde** side who were back to earth with a bump after last week's performance. **Ben Kohler-Cadmore's** brilliant 126 (10x6, 9x4) was by some way the innings of the match, helping AE to their highest total of the season so far. **Richard Wilkinson's** 5-39 included the key wkt of **Andrew Jackson**, with only **Luke Young** (52) making a score of substance. **Didsbury's Rob Sehmi** (114) and **Steve Green** (49) added 133 for the 6th wkt to help their side to 261 at **Grappenhall**, Green then returning a fabulous 8-71 to secure a 56 run win. **Widnes** became the first side to pass 300 in the Prem, their 301-7 v **Cheadle** mainly through **Rohan Luthra** hitting 7x6 on his way to 89 and **Aaqib Uppal** two in his 54, Uppal then taking 4-53 in a 94 run win, Cheadle battling hard (again) but all out in the 52nd. **Oxton** claimed a big 25 pts - just - by defending 112 against **Brooklands**, who were 65-9. **Joe Gill** and **Rob Leach** then fought tenaciously but just fell short, Brooklands 103 all out. **Chester BH** dominated at **Toft** but the hosts' last pair held out for some ten overs to secure a draw.

TABLE - MAY 13

TEAM	PTS
NESTON	100
ALDERLEY EDGE	81
DIDSBURY	80
WIDNES	80
HYDE	60
NANTWICH	55
CHESTER BH	45
GRAPPENHALL	42
TOFT	38
BROOKLANDS	33
OXTON	31
CHEADLE	26

LEADING PLAYERS

PLAYER	RUNS
BEN KOHLER-CADMORE (AE)	209
MATTHEW STRONG (NES)	191
ROHAN LUTHRA (WID)	173
RICHARD WILKINSON (AE)	167
BEN BODHA (GRAPP)	145
PLAYER	WKTS
STEVE GREEN (DIDS)	19
ASH DAVIS (NEST)	17
TOM MacRURY (GRAPP)	16
AAQIB UPPAL (WID)	14
JASON FOULKES (NANT)	13

PERFORMANCES OF NOTE

May 6

Andrej Yaksender 99*, Chead v Toft
 Luke Young 6-18, Hyde v Nant
 Aaqib Uppal 6-56, Wid v Dids
 Tom MacRury 5-78, Grapp v Brook

May 13

Ben Kohler-Cadmore 126, AE v Hyde
 Rob Sehmi 114, Dids v Grapp
 Steve Green 8-71 (& 49) Dids v Grapp
 Ash Davis 7-20, Nest v Nant
 Richard Wilkinson 5-33, AE v Hyde
 Jordan Collier 5-36 (& 51),
 Oxt v Brook

WK 3 - MAY 6

The game of the day - already commented upon in the editorial - was at Moorside Rd where **Sale** maintained their perfect start after a fantastic run chase. Hosts **Urmston**, put in, lost a wkt fourth ball and were soon 26-2, but a superlative stand of 192 between **Ryan O'Brien** (105) and **Liam Marshall** (126*) lifted them to 263-3, Marshall hammering 27 off the final over of the inns. Marshall then dismissed the prolific **Pat Ashling** cheaply, but, undeterred, **James Dodds** (103*) and **Tyrone Lawrence** (84) added a run-a-ball 161 for the 2nd, the thrilling batting continuing. **Dan Newton** came in after Lawrence, hitting 22 off his first 9 bs, but rain arrived and caused a lengthy delay. However, the umpires got the players back on for 4 overs of play, and with 34 still needed, Newton picked up where he left off, his 55* off 29 doing the business as Dodds brought the scores level with a boundary that also gave him his hundred. The other side with three from three are **Bowdon**, whose 46 run win over **Timperley** would have been significantly greater but for a last wkt stand of 89 between **Tom Matthews** (46*) and **Chris Page** (45), who came together with Timpers 51-9 after **Rob Lord** (6-40) and **Joe**

Chapple (4-37) had caused havoc. Bowdon had been in strife of their own at 107-7 (**Nathan Brown** 5-31) but **Matt Tully's** pugnacious 52* from no.8 saved Bowdonian bacon. **Teix Bolingbroke** hit a four to reach an unbeaten 50 off 111 balls and win the match as **Oulton Park** ground out a 6 wkt win at **Alvanley**, while **Macclesfield** - despite a rain interruption - got an important first 25 pts of 2023 with a comfortable 8 wkt win over **Congleton**. The rain which finally halted play at Church Lane was welcomed more by hosts **Bramhall** than by **Lindow**, who still had 34 overs to make the 124 they needed to win but ended on 102-5, and it was a similar story at Birchvale Drive where **Romiley** were all out 122 after being 94-1 playing **Stockport Georgians** (**Simon Normanton** 5-24). SG were 99-5 off 21 when no further play was possible.

WK 4 - MAY 13

Sale's superb 2023 continued with a straightforward 5 wkt win over **Bramhall** (**Tyrone Lawrence** 68*) but **Bowdon's** perfect start surprisingly stalled at Victoria Rd. **Ben Gibson** made a brilliant 101 out of **Macc's** 200, and the Macc bowling then stifled a strong batting line-up, Bowdon grateful to **Ross Zelem**

(58* from 119 bs) helping the last man hold out for 5 overs to draw. A remarkable 9 wkt win for **Romiley** against a **Lindow** side containing both **James Duffy** and **Matt Parkinson** was the standout result of the day, **Brad Snape** and **Alex Hooton** (6-46) reducing Lindow to 12-6 and then 29-7 before **Finn Gavaghan** (95 off 86 bs) and **Alex Matthews** (42) added 126 for the 8th wkt. Chasing 166, **Isaac Willett** made 112* off 111 bs as Romiley won inside 32 overs, the only wkt falling to a run out. Another five wkt haul for **Liam Marshall** helped **Urmston** come out impressive 78 run winners at **Oulton Park**, while **Congleton** ended a run of terrible results with a 93 run win over an **Alvanley** side containing **Sophie Ecclestone**, the world no.1 taking 2-55 in Congleton's modest-looking 159-8. But she was upstaged by **Muhammad Kashif's** amazing spell of 10-6-8-6 as Alvanley fell in a calamitous heap from 46-0 to 66 all out. **Timperley** recovered from 77-6 to make 234 (**Caedence Kupper** 72 off 57) against **Stockport Georgians** who were left clinging on at 158-9 as their last pair fought hard.

TABLE - MAY 13

TEAM	PTS
SALE	100
BOWDON	82
TIMPERLEY	70
URMSTON	66
ROMILEY	65
OULTON PARK	64
MACCLESFIELD	53
BRAMHALL	44
LINDOW	40
ALVANLEY	35
CONGLETON	34
STOCKPORT GEO.	20

LEADING PLAYERS

PLAYER	RUNS
ISAAC WILLETT (ROM)	260
LIAM MARSHALL (URM)	239
BEN GIBSON (MACC)	203
TYRONE LAWRENCE (SAL)	193
RYAN O'BRIEN (URM)	187
PLAYER	WKTS
LIAM MARSHALL (URM)	14
ROB LORD (BOW)	13
NATHAN BROWN (TIMP)	13
ANDREW DUFTY (OP)	13
MUHAMMAD KASHIF (CO)	11

PERFORMANCES OF NOTE

MAY 6

Liam Marshall 126*, Urm v Sale
 Ryan O'Brien 105, Urm v Sale
 James Dodds 103*, Sale v Urm
 Rob Lord 6-40, Bowd v Timp
 Simon Normanton 5-24, SG v Rom
 Nick Ball 5-30, OP v Alv
 Nathan Brown 5-31, Timp v Bowd

MAY 13

Isaac Willett 112*, Rom v Lind
 Ben Gibson 101, Macc v Bowd
 Finn Gavaghan 95, Lind v Rom
 Muhammad Kashif 6-8, Cong v Alv
 Alex Hooton 6-64, Rom v Lind
 James Bottomley 5-33, Bowd v Macc
 Simon Normanton 5-53, SG v Timp
 Andrew Dufty 5-54, OP v Urm
 Liam Marshall 5-55, Urm v OP

WK 3 - MAY 6

Three winners on a rainy afternoon in Div 2, **Marple** perhaps the most relieved after their previous matches were both abandoned. Rain did affect their match with **NE Cheshire** at Poynton but **Joe Cash's** splendid 8-24 set them 149 to win. **Grant Hodnett's** 63 (6x6, 3x4) was the mainstay of a ticklish chase, Marple home by 3 wkts. **Mobberley** were also indebted to a veteran bowler as **Abdul Aqeel's** 7-20 saw **Davenham** routed for just 67, the last 7 Dav wkts going down for just 13 runs. Mobb's subsequent 8 wkt win was attained with a minimum of fuss and before rain could interfere. **Port Sunlight** were the other winners, their decent start to 2023 continuing as they thrashed **Ashton OM** by 9 wkts, **Tom Palin's** 5-36 the chief factor in AOM collapsing from 92-3 to 107 all out. **Naveed Gondal's** 101* (102 bs) was ultimately in vain for **Stockport**, rain restricting the **Bollington** chase of 241 to 40 overs. An opening 100 stand between **Rick Hough** (46) and skipper **Harri Dickinson** (74) promised to set up an intriguing finish before the interferences, Bolly 167-3. **Cheadle Hulme** were another frustrated side as the weather brought a halt to proceedings at

Grove Park with visitors **Christleton** a far-from-secure 108-5 looking at 227 to win. **Rhys Collister** made a lively 72* and **Hashir Khan** 67 in CH's inns. But it was **Haslington** who were left truly ruing their fortune with the rain as **Hale Barns** were left clinging on at 114-8 off 39 at a sodden Brooks Drive, still 101 short of a win. **Jordan Sealey** earlier made 81 in the Haslington inns which was given some late thrust to reach 214-9.

WK 4 - MAY 13

Mobberley found themselves in nosebleed territory, top of the shop after thrashing **Ashton OM** by 199 runs at a verdant Church Lane. **Ibrar Latif's** 83 set the stage for a late assault by (you guessed)...**Abdul Aqeel**, whose 29-ball 63* was the main reason 95 runs came off the last 10, Mobb closing on 300-7. Aqeel was then in the thick of it with the ball, a stunning 7-45 seeing AOM off for just 101. The result of the day was at Bowden Lane where **Marple** (144) tied with **Cheadle Hulme**, the hosts toasting **Jack Grundy** after his final over of the match, from which CH needed

just 5 to win with 3 wkts in hand. After taking four off the first three deliveries to level scores, Grundy had **Tom Balderson** lbw, saw **Scott Howarth** run out with a direct hit off ball five, and then bowled former Marple favourite **Andy Wylie** with the final ball in a grandstand finish, with both sides taking 16 pts. **Hale Barns** won a low-scoring affair at **Port Sunlight** by 18 runs, PS folding from 128-6 to 134 all out. Skipper **Ben Istead** took 4-5 as **Haslington** bundled out **N.E. Cheshire** for just 86, but 3 wkts apiece for **Will Westerby** and **Jayden Camp** had Haslington sweating as they inched to a 3 wkt win. Five **Stockport** players bagged ducks at **Davenham**, **Naveed Gondal's** 63 just over half their final total of 122, evergreen **Robin Taylor** returning 5-65. **Mike Rudd's** 50* secured an 8 wkt win. Way out west, **Bollington** got a heartening first 25 pts since their relegation with a well-earned 5 wkt win at **Christleton**, **Theo Johnson's** 48* off 54 in sparkling contrast to all the batting that went before as Bolly's long journey - on a day when the M56 was closed - was rewarded in the best way possible.

TABLE - MAY 13

TEAM	PTS
MOBBERLEY	79
CHEADLE HULME	78
HALE BARNES	66
PORT SUNLIGHT	65
HASLINGTON	64
MARPLE	62
DAVENHAM	57
STOCKPORT	42
BOLLINGTON	39
CHRISTLETON	25
N.E.CHESHIRE	19
ASHTON O.M.	14

LEADING PLAYERS

PLAYER	RUNS
NAVEED GONDAL (STO)	171
JOHNATHON AIKINS (HB)	153
LEWIS DAVIES (PS)	137
JORDAN SEALEY (HAS)	165
IBRAR LATIF (MOBB)	128
PLAYER	WKTS
ABDUL AQEEL (SG)	19
JOE CASH (MAR)	12
TOM BALDERSON (CH)	11
TOM PALIN (PS)	10
MATT MOUNTNEY (MOBB)	9

PERFORMANCES OF NOTE

6 May

Naveed Gondal 101*, Stock v Boll
Joe Cash 8-24, Marp v NEC
Abdul Aqeel 7-20, Mobb v Dav
Tom Palin 5-36, PS v AOM

13 May

Abdul Aqeel 7-45
 (& 63* off 29 balls), Mobb v AOM
Robin Taylor 5-65, Dav v Stock

WK 4 - MAY 6

Division 3 was the only one to record six definitive results on a dank day, with four sides experiencing the ecstasy or agony of a 1 wkt win. **Tattenhall** came out on top by this narrow margin in the derby at **Barrow**, **Dave McClements** (62) scoring almost half the hosts' total of 126. He was finally dismissed by **Freddie Cheshire**, who went onto make a patient 39* (89 bs) to steer Tatt over the line in dramatic circumstances. It was every bit as tense on the Wirral as **Maritime** somehow clung on at 62-8 to make the 106 they needed to beat **Northwich**, thanks largely to a tenacious 35* (70 bs) from skipper **Thisal Jayawardene**. The Vics - who had earlier fallen in a terrible heap from 90-3 to total just 105 - saw a golden opportunity for 25 pts slip away. The other winners were all much more comfortable, **Heaton Mersey's** 153 run demolition of **Warrington Park** the standout in that regard. **Luke Marshall's** 5-24 did the damage for HM after their first three batters all made 50 or more in a final total of 235-5. **James Lewis** made the top score of 51 in **Warrington's** 223-9 at Oakmere, who fought hard but fell to a disappointing 162 after being 151-5 at one stage, while **Hawk**

Green's spluttering start continued at Upper Hibbert Lane. **Ben Stoddard** led the way with 60 for visitors **Kingsley**, whose innings was halted in the 40th over by rain with them 187-9. HG were left with 35 overs to chase, 49 apiece from **Josh Hampson** & **Elliot Young** making a brave tilt at the target, but a dramatic collapse saw the hosts lose 6-6, all out 140. **Tom Waring** clean bowled the last man in the penultimate over to claim 5-36 and 25 pts. In the other game a fine 2nd wkt stand of 142 between **Daniel Seaton** (73*) and **Tom Marsland** (83) led **Upton** to a handsome 8 wkt win at **Ashley**, **Ammad Mushtaq** having earlier made 73 for his side as they were all out 175.

WK 4 - MAY 13

A third straight win for **Heaton Mersey** saw them top the table, their five wkt win at **Warrington** not without its alarms as HM slid to 29-4 pursuing 121, but 57 from **Jordan Grose** and a patient 33* from **John Moon** solved that problem, the pair adding 91. **Upton** have also won three in a row, after a 6 wkt win over **Barrow** at Old Greasy Rd that will be re-

membered for the extraordinary performance of Barrow opener **Ryan McLean**. He made 112 (122 bs, 8x6, 6x4) out of 142 until he was eighth out, Barrow adding 16 more as Upton were set 159. **Luca Di Stefano's** unbeaten 45 (105 bs) anchored the successful chase. **Ashley** made short work of things at **Warrington Park**, bowling the hosts out for 91 with **Ja-hangir Mushtaq** taking 3-5 before making an unbeaten 29 to assist **Syed Azam Shah** (49*) claim the 25 pts while WP have collected just 6 pts from their last three matches. **Tattenhall** sprung the surprise of the day by bowling out in-form **Maritime** for just 80 to bag a 91 run win, the Tattenhall veterans **Tom Hyslop** and **Alan Brock** taking 7-52 from 26 overs between them. **George Waring** made 76 for **Kingsley** at The Croft who looked well set for a big score in their local derby with **Oakmere**, but **Nick Guest's** 5-30 induced a collapse to 129 all out, the visitors clearing off back up the A49 with 25 pts after **Slade Mitrovic's** 51 helped them scramble to a 3 wkt win. Despite only totalling 121, **Hawk Green** finally got a win after **Northwich** seemed not to fancy the chase at Moss Farm, all out for 85 in the 41st.

TABLE - MAY 13

TEAM	PTS
HEATON MERSEY	88
UPTON	83
ASHLEY	81
MARITIME	79
TATTENHALL	60
KINGSLEY	59
OAKMERE	58
HAWK GREEN	47
WARRINGTON	40
BARROW	40
WINNINGTON PARK	31
NORTHWICH	17

LEADING PLAYERS

PLAYER	RUNS
AMMAD MUSHTAQ (ASH)	212
ELLIOT YOUNG (HG)	201
TOM MARSLAND (UPT)	197
DAVID McCLEMENTS (BAR)	152
BRETT TAYLOR (TATT)	146
PLAYER	WKTS
LUKE MARSHALL (HM)	16
JOEL LOGAN (KING)	15
VENSAKAR KANTHIRAJ (MAR)	12
VISHAL BARIGELA (MAR)	12
AMMAD MUSHTAQ (ASH)	11

PERFORMANCES OF NOTE

MAY 6

Luke Marshall 5-24, HM v WP
Tom Waring 5-38, King v HG
Vensakar Kanthiraj 5-42,
Mar v North

MAY 13

Ryan McLean 112, Barr v Upt
McLean made almost 79% of his side's runs while batting and 71% of their overall total.
Nick Guest 5-30, Oak v King
Vithushan Kanthiraj 5-44,
Mar v Tatt

PREMIER DIVISION

Wk 3 (May 6) Chester BH finally got 25 pts under their belts, a thrilling 11 run win over **Bowdon** due in large part to evergreens **Dan Riley** and **Robin Fisher**, the pair firstly adding what turned out to be a crucial 14 for the last CBH wkt before sparking a collapse amongst a Bowdon line up who were 114-6 to 117 all out, Riley 6-31, Fisher 4-16. **Neston** mirrored their 1st XI with a big win over **Oxton**, the 131 run margin deceptively close as the lost Oxton pair were one over away from safety. A make-shift **Didsbury 2s** drew at **Lindow** in a match truncated by rain, **Syed Bilal Hussain Shah's** 109* out of Lindow's 190-8 the headline. At Dane Rd, **Sale** did well to make 150 after being 88-7 against **Brooklands** but the visitors had few problems recording an 8 wkt win. **Ed Stubbs** made a brilliant 128 in **Toft's** 255-7 against **Cheadle** who were some way short at 158-7, rain cutting their reply short. **Hyde's** long trip to **Nantwich** was frustratingly washed out after just 28 overs, Hyde 81-5.

Wk 4 (May 13) A comfortable 9 wkt win for **Toft** over an out-of-sorts **Chester BH** was the big story of the day, **Ed Stubbs** (61*) and **George Muirhead** (41*) adding an unbroken 90 as CBH's 129 proved some way short. **Neston's** 209-8 was the highest total of the day, **Tom Jones** their sex bomb with 33* off 17 bs at no.9 and then 3-27, visitors **Nantwich** all out 131. **Sale** could make a few bob marketing the video of their 118-9 in 50 overs at **Didsbury** as a cure for insomnia, the leaders going on to win by 6 wkts. Like their 1st XI counterparts, **Brooklands** and **Oxton** were involved in a low scoring thriller, Brooklands' 145 looking inadequate when Oxton were 93-4, but **Caleb Jones** took two quick wkts on his way to 4-31, Brooklands winning by 26 runs in the end. Lindow bowled **Cheadle** out for 92 en-route to a 6 wkt win while the **Hyde v Bowdon** scorecard is still incomplete.

2ND XI PREM

TEAM	PTS
DIDSBURY	82
BROOKLANDS	76
NESTON	66
LINDOW	66
OXTON	58
TOFT	48
CHESTER BH	47
NANTWICH	45
SALE	41
BOWDON	34
HYDE	21
CHEADLE	19

2ND XI DIV 1

Timperley are the early pacesetters, winning all four of their matches, including a 4 wkt win over **Stockport Georgians** on **May 13th** which ended SG's winning streak. **Grappenhall** won out by 1 wkt in a tense struggle with visitors **Heaton Mersey** on **May 6**, but then fell in a heap a week later, 77 all out at **Bramhall**, who won an untidy scrap by 3 wkts. **Romiley** fared even worse, 56 all out not surprisingly child's play for **Widnes** to knock off, in contrast to the previous week when **Widnes** made 274-5 in a high scoring draw with **Bramhall** (245-4). **A.Edge** crashed to 52 all out against **Macclesfield**, while **Oulton Park** have made a poor start after their relegation, losing all four fixtures, the latest setback for them a 5 wkt loss at **Heaton Mersey**. Despite **James Crisall's** 75, **Marple** collapsed from 170-4 to 184 all out at **Alvanley**, the hosts grinding out a 6 wkt win in the 49th over.

2ND XI DIV 2

Cheadle Hulme and **Urmston** made perfect starts to their seasons. Both had big wins on **May 6th**, **CH** a whopping 145 runs too good for **Warrington**, who got another pasting at **Urmston** a week later, a ghastly seizure seeing them 61 all out after being 50-2, and leaving them bottom of the early table, to no great surprise. **Neston's** buttock-clenching 112-8 in 50 overs at **CH** on **Sat 13th** was not surprisingly insufficient to win. **Ashton OM's** 108 represented a decent effort after being 8-5 at **Port Sunlight** on **May 6th**, **PS** themselves slipping to 49-6 but hanging on to win a nailbiter in the last over by 1 wkt. **PS** won again on Sat after bowling out **Hale Barns** for 70 after **Gareth Brooks**, having earlier made 42* in his side's 131, took 8-26. **Dids 2As** and **Haslington** had a thrilling last over draw on Sat, Dids 168-8, Hasl 167-7.

2ND XI DIV 3

Bollington have made a heartening start to life in Div 3 with three straight wins, their 66 run win over **Runcorn** featuring a 149 run stand for the 4th wkt from **Peter Henshall** (97) and **Ross Duncan** (92*). However, Bolly came unstuck against **Christleton** on Sat, who won by 4 wkts and went top as a result. On **May 6th** **Harry Hatchell** made 102 for **Ashley** in their 150 run over a **Mobberley** side skittled for 67 and currently with just 6 pts after a Covid-induced 'loss' on Sat. Also struggling, **Upton** went from 47-2 to 54 all out at **Congleton** on **May 6th**, who only need 6 overs to secure a 10 wkt win, **Cong** winning again on **May 13th** as **Upton** lost again to **CBH 3s**.



ECB NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP K.O.

10 sides from the CCCL, along with Westminster Park of the Cheshire Cricket League, entered the 2023 National Club Challenge. Sadly, on May 7th, Hyde and Widnes, coming off the back of excellent league wins the day before, lost their matches, while Chester BH came off a chastening league loss to record an impressive victory! On May 14th, Nantwich, who agonisingly lost out by 1 run in the final at Lords last year, went through after their opponents conceded, and four other CCCL sides secured passage through to the next round.

Preliminary Round matches, May 7:

Grp 6: Hyde (219) lost to Orrell Red Triangle (236-7). Andrew Jackson hit 70 out of a 3rd wkt stand of 88 with Rohit Acharya, who made a fine 73, but a strong Hyde team fell just 17 runs short in an entertaining match.

Grp 6: Widnes (158) lost to Leigh (258-7) by 100 runs. A weakened Widnes side were further depleted with Qamar Hafiz unable to bowl, Leigh's Matthew McKiernan making 102 off 79 as the visitors posted a daunting total. When Rohan Luthra's defiant knock of 58 was over, Widnes were 129-5 and had too much to do.

Grp 7: Chester BH (207) beat Halesowen (87) by 120 runs. 73 from keeper Angus Kilby enabled a below-strength CBH to post a reasonable total but a terrific performance from the bowlers blew the visitors away.

First Round matches, May 14:

Gp 5: St Annes (178-9) beat Neston (176-9) by 1 wkt. Despite the in-form Matt Strong falling first ball, David Hurst's superb 90 held the Neston inns together, and when St Anne's were 70-7 Neston were odds-on to progress. But no.9 Mitch Bolus had other ideas, 4 sixes and 5 fours in his unbeaten 64 galvanising the tail as St.Annes snatched a dramatic victory off the last ball.

Gp 7: Didsbury (256) beat Longton (77) by 179 runs. Hosts Didsbury had too much for Longton, powering off to a flying start, keeping the run-rate above 6 throughout their innings and reducing the visitors, all at sea, to 32-5 in their powerplay, finally all out inside 21 overs.

Oulton Park (185) beat Moddershall & Oulton (164) by 21 runs. A gripping encounter looked over as M&O tumbled to 104-8 in the 27th, but a stand of 60 in 12 overs for the 9th made things very tense. Skipper Martyn East (who earlier made 64) claimed the two remaining wickets in the 39th over.

Shrewsbury (184) beat Chester BH (67) by 117 runs. Chester were no match for their opponents, both openers out for ducks (including Warren Goodwin, who made a double-ton in their opening National KO game last season) as CBH were 11-4 after 5 overs. Only skipper Rick Moore (34*) made double figures on a disappointing day for the Prem side.

Gp 8: Alderley Edge (200-8) beat Knowle & Dorridge (199-8) by 2 wkts. Alderley Edge were in some strife at 135-6 but an unbeaten 71 from Subhaan Mahmood kept things under control.

Oxton (180-5) beat Hem Heath (179-7) by 5 wkts. A match where all batsmen struggled for fluency was decided by Henry Dobson's 89* which guided Oxton to the win with two balls remaining.

Porthill Park (46-0) beat Westminster Park (45) by 10 wkts. The glorious optimism of CCL outfit Westminster Park entering the National KO was ruthlessly crushed in a hopeless mis-match against one of the strongest sides in regional league cricket, the whole match done inside 20 overs.

Nantwich v Moseley - Moseley conceded.



CHESHIRE CC NEWS

DEFIANT CHESHIRE BOW OUT

Wretched luck with the weather meant that **Cheshire** were unable to progress in the NCCA T20 even before their trip to Netherfield for their double header with **Cumbria** on May 7th, but to the great credit of their side, they won two close-run matches with the hosts to finish as runners-up in the group, just appoint behind winners Staffordshire. Opting to bat first in **Match 1**, Cheshire's 135-8 looked light, especially when Cumbria were 93-1 in the 13th. However, an unfortunate injury to non-striker **Gary Pratt**, struck on the arm by a shot from his partner **Sam Dutton**, saw him retire not out, and Cheshire fought back brilliantly to leave Cumbria requiring 16 off the last over - they could only get 11 and Cheshire were home by 4 runs. **Match 2** was every bit as close, Cumbria choosing to bat first, Nantwich's **Marcus Stables** making 41* in their 144-4. **Sam Perry** (right) anchored the chase which was turbo-charged by skipper **Nick Anderson** whacking six maximums in his 32-ball 50. Cheshire needed 16 from the last and Perry hammered a six first ball and a four off the last to seal a breath-taking 6 wkt win, rounding off a successful competition for the Alderley Edge skipper who hit 72 off 46 in the game against Staffordshire. Cheshire's attention now turns to the 50 over format, with a trip to East Anglia to take on Norfolk (May 28) and Suffolk (May 29) their next games, followed by two more home fixtures in June (details below).



CHESHIRE CC NCCA GAMES IN JUNE (50 overs)

SUN 4th: v CAMBRIDGESHIRE at Didsbury CC, 11.00am

SUN 25th: v SHROPSHIRE at Toft CC, 11.00am



3RD XI CRICKET

The league season is now underway on Sundays, the Premier Division now also a 40-over-a-side win/lose format, as in all the other divisions. Champions Didsbury 3s got off to a good start, comfortably winning their opening two matches, as have Nantwich and Stockport Georgians, while last season's runners-up Sale recovered from an ignominious start (bowled out for 38 by Georgians) with an impressive chase of 193 to beat Toft. Jamal Benzafar (AOM) made 107 out of his side's 189 against Heaton Mersey 3s in Div 1 on May 14th, but HM won by 6 wkts. Elworth & Stockport Trinity head the early Div 2 table. In Div 3 East on May 7th Macclesfield hammered 301-7 against Heaton Mersey 4s, winning by 212 runs as a result. Elsewhere there have already sadly been sides conceding fixtures but it is hoped this situation will settle down as the season develops.

JACK GARDNER TROPHY 3RD XI QUARTER FINAL DRAW:

BROOKLANDS 4s v SALE
 MARPLE & COMPSTALL v MACCLESFIELD

DIDSBURY 4s v DIDSBURY 3s
 DAVENHAM v NANTWICH

MATCHES TO BE PLAYED BY THE END OF JUNE

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