

# COUNTY LEAGUE NEWS

on behalf of Cheshire Clubs Cricket Committee (4 Cs)



SEPTEMBER 2023

## Alderley Edge it!

First Prem title in 7 years by a single point

Bowdon & Timperley back in the Prem

Hyde win thrilling Cheshire Cup Final



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## FROM THE EDITOR

And so around comes week 22 again, and the end of another season, very different from the previous year and with too many weather-interrupted and cancelled games to count, sadly. It's most noticeable in the end of season stats, with points tallies and run scoring some way down on last year - for example, in 2022, nine sides finished with more than 400 points, but only Div. 1 champs Bowdon, with 408, managed that this year, a reflection of the number of cancelled and truncated matches. But we had a riveting final day in all 1st XI Divisions, with titles being won by fine margins and relegation issues settled in the dusk as the tension was almost unbearable at times at some venues. There really is nothing like cricket when these sorts of scenarios are being played out across the county! There's been plenty of watchable cricket too, thankfully, in both league and cup, and although the 1st XI T20 suffered a gener-



ally unsatisfactory season, it proved to be just about the only time that champions Alderley Edge put a foot wrong, their remarkable seizure in the semi-final against Cheadle mirroring almost exactly Cheadle froze against AE the previous year in a knockout match. But in the league, AE will rightly bask in their triumph, and their third Premier Division crown will provide a big boost to all at Moss Lane, as will the better year enjoyed by their 2nd XI. The Cheshire Cup featured some fantastic cricket this year, which culminated in a gripping final enjoyed by a large crowd up on Werneth Low, but it remains to be seen what will become of its companion competition, the Cheshire Shield. Look out for news about this during the close-season. There has been much discussion during the season of the need to introduce Duckworth-Lewis adjusted targets into rain-affected matches, and having been saying exactly this for several years now, it

seems as though this often wet 2023 summer has brought a good number more round to the same conclusion. DLS is, when all said and done, just a different calculation to perform in weather-affected games - umpires, scorers (and captains) already do the maths with the current formula, so DLS should not provide any terrors. And, as I have been saying, draws could still be attained even with DLS-adjusted targets in play - so we will see what ideas gain momentum ahead of the AGM and rule-change proposal processes.

Thank you to all those who have continued to promote the newsletter, which has reached the end of its fifth year in this new format. I'm not sure as yet what 2024 will bring for it. But I will look forward to seeing you at the league dinner to celebrate our season.

*James*

## 2023 SEASON SUMMARY

**PREMIER DIVISION: WINNERS: ALDERLEY EDGE**

**RUNNERS-UP: DIDSBURY**

**RELEGATED: BROOKLANDS, CHEADLE**

**DIVISION ONE: WINNERS: BOWDON**

**RUNNERS-UP: TIMPERLEY**

**RELEGATED: ALVANLEY, CONGLETON**

### DIVISION TWO

**WINNERS: MARPLE**

**RUNNERS-UP: DAVENHAM**

**RELEGATED: CHRISTLETON, HALE BARNES**

**DIVISION THREE: WINNERS: MARITIME**

**RUNNERS-UP: ASHLEY**

**RELEGATED: WARRINGTON, NORTHWICH**

**2ND XI PREMIER DIVISION: WINNERS: DIDSBURY**

**RUNNERS-UP: BOWDON**

**RELEGATED: SALE, NANTWICH**

**3RD XI PREMIER DIVISION: WINNERS: SALE**

**RUNNERS-UP: STOCKPORT GEORGIANS**

**RELEGATED: BRAMHALL, ROMILEY**

**1ST XI T20 WINNERS: CHEADLE**

**RUNNERS UP: NANTWICH**

**CHESHIRE CUP WINNERS: HYDE**

**RUNNERS-UP: NEW BRIGHTON**

**CHESHIRE SHIELD WINNERS: NORTH EAST CHESHIRE**

**RUNNERS-UP: MARPLE**

**2ND XI T20 WINNERS: DIDSBURY**

**RUNNERS UP: NESTON**

**3RD XI T20: FINALS DAY HELD OVER UNTIL 2024**

**OVER 40s CUP WINNERS: CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL**  
**OVER 40s PLATE: WINNERS: NESTON**

**RUNNERS-UP: HYDE**  
**RUNNERS-UP: DAVENHAM**

# CHESHIRE CUP FINAL 2023

## HYDE TRIUMPHANT IN THRILLING FINAL

WERNETH LOW, SUNDAY 10 SEPTEMBER:

HYDE 194 (40 os) BEAT NEW BRIGHTON 180 (36.4 os) BY 14 RUNS

MATCH OFFICIALS UMPIRES: GED KINSEY & CHRIS RIGG

SCORERS: JAMES HOWE (HYDE), JOSHUA EASTWOOD (NB)

Hyde put their stuttering league form behind them and gained what many felt was a sweet reward after their loss in the T20 semi-final in July, winning a gripping tussle with New Brighton by 14 runs in front of a large crowd. Put into bat, Hyde got off well, with Tom Partridge (38) and man-of-the-match Luke Young adding 70. Young then saw a succession of partners come and go as the impetus disappeared for Hyde, NB exerting good pressure with the ball to reduce the hosts to 148-5, but Young stayed until the 35th over, sixth man out with the score at 170 for a magnificent 84 (106 bs) with 5x4 and 4x6. Hyde scrambled valuable late runs to utilise all their overs and set a target of 195. The New Brighton reply started spectacularly, a six from the second ball of the innings by skipper Adam Neal as he and Ashley Watkins added 52 in just 5 overs, but crucially Rohit Acharya dismissed them both within five balls, NB 57-2. Owais Shah and Seb Botes then took the score to 104 before Young took the key wkt of Botes in the 17th over, but with just 87 needed off 23 overs and still 7 wkts in hand, it seemed very much like the visitor's game. Skipper Danny Cranmer then summoned reserves of belief in his side and they turned the screw to great effect, NB tumbling to 148-7 after 27. The NB



lower order then fought back as the tension mounted, the score creeping to 180-9, 15 wanted with 24 balls remaining, but after three dots off Ben Balderson, a spectacular diving catch at backward point by Adam Worrall (*circled in picture*) saw the home crowd erupt in celebration, Hyde ecstatic as they claimed the Cheshire Cup for the third time in the last seven years. Skipper Danny Cranmer (left) received the trophy and Luke Young the MotM award, as the celebrations went on long into the night.



ALL IMAGES: HYDE CSC TWITTER

### CHESHIRE CUP SEMI-FINALS

SUNDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER

WHITEHOUSE LANE: HYDE 97-6 (17.5 os) BEAT NANTWICH 96 (26 os) BY 4 WKTS

As in Nantwich's quarter-final, this match was another low-scoring affair, the hosts unable to break the early stranglehold imposed by Andrew Jackson (8-4-11-3), as skipper Danny Cranmer and Cole Turner took 6-36 between them. Despite losing a wkt first ball, Hyde steered through a tricky assignment to win with almost 32 overs unused.

ROSLARE DR: NEW BRIGHTON 187-7 (33.1 os) BEAT WALLASEY 183-9 (40 os) BY 3 WKTS

Seb Botes took 4-28 and then made 38, while Louis Botes took 3-36 and made a handy 27 as NB took the local bragging rights after a well-paced chase set up largely by Jamie Crawley's 83 for Wallasey.

From scorching to shivering, September saw Alderley Edge claim a thrilling last ball win on the penultimate matchday which meant, despite a last day loss, they won the title by a point. Grappenhall & Toft survived but for Cheadle & Brooklands, the heartbreak of relegation.

## WK 20 - SEPTEMBER 2

An imperious display from **Alderley Edge** skipper **Sam Perry** was the stand-out moment of another fascinating day of Premier Division cricket. Despite a splendid 281-6 by **Toft** at Booths Park (**Rohan Fernando's** 78 the leading knock around 97 runs contributed by the **Reddy** brothers and a useful 41 from **Jimmy O'Sullivan**) Perry showed all his experience and class in a masterful display spanning some three hours, finishing 142\* off 164 bs (11x4, 5x6). His stand of 173 with **Subhaan Mahmood** for the second wkt broke the back of the chase as AE maintained their advantage at the top with a 6 wkt win. **Didsbury** survived a scare to keep their challenge alive, a nervy unbroken 8th wkt stand of 22 between skipper **Nick Anderson** & **Tom Bidwell** helping them past **Neston's** 142, Dids stumbling from 78-1 as **Chris Dixon** & **Mike Stewart** put in excellent bowling displays in the heat. Both **Chester BH** and **Hyde** saw their remote hopes of glory finally snuffed out, after both sides lost to the bottom two clubs. **Brooklands** overcame CBH by a whopping 100 runs, **Todd Walker's** class 63 totally overshadowed



by **Kevin Carroll** who played as only he can, smashing a 52-ball 107 (incl. 10 sixes, one pictured) as his side reached 268 (194 of them in boundaries). The entertainment was far from over as **AJ Hart** then arguably upstaged his long-time team mate with a sensational spell of 9-54, CBH listing heavily to starboard at 53-6 before **Angus Kilby** led an astonishing counter-attack, hammering 94 off 61 bs as CBH were

all out for 168 in just 29 overs. Brooklands' delight was tempered by news from Kingsway of an equally stunning performance as second-bottom **Cheadle** demolished Hyde by an incredible 185 runs. **Andrej Yaksender** passed 600 league runs with a superb 89, he and **Jasper Wong** (59) adding 101 as Cheadle reached 231-6. No-one saw what followed coming, however, as left arm over pace-man **Ben Broadhurst** returned a brilliant 6-22, Hyde losing 3 wkts with the score on 15 and then their last 6 for just 13 runs as the scoreboard showed 46 all out. The other side in the relegation fight, **Grappenhall**, won a third game in a row to put a 22 pt gap between them and the relegation spots, beating **Oxton** by a handsome 97 runs in a low scoring game at Broad Lane, the visitors bundled out for 81 after **Adam Roylance** ended a horror sequence for him (0,1,0,0,0) with the game's top score of 38 in Grappers' 178. In the other match, **Widnes** leapfrogged **Nantwich** in mid-table after a 7 wkt win at Beaconsfield Rd.

## WK 21 - SEPTEMBER 9

What a day of Premier Division cricket, one that saw the most dramatic of wins for the league leaders which put them within five points of the title and two of the bottom four pull off excellent wins which kept the battle to avoid the drop on a knife-edge. The game of the day was at Moss Lane, where **Aaqib Uppal's** highly impressive debut season with **Widnes** reached new heights with a three hour knock which yielded a superb 108, adding 143 for the 4th wkt with **Luke McCoy** (77), the visitors setting **Alderley Edge** 262 to win. Having chased more to win the previous week, AE set off undaunted and despite the early loss of



**Sam Perry**, were kept on course by **Ben Kohler-Cadmore** (79) and a succession of solid knocks in the top order. Nine were needed off the final over and amidst increasing tension, only singles could be found, but off the very last ball, **Chris Sanders**, who has made such a difference to AE's campaign since his return, carved the ball behind backward point for 4 to leave AE with one hand on the title (pictured above). The relief was palpable after an epic game, marred as it was by the petulant reactions of three AE players to being given out, and they were fortunate that only one (one match) ban was handed out as a result. That last ball win came as a big blow to **Didsbury**, who had won handsomely at **Oxton** earlier, bowling out their hosts for 97 after **Nick Anderson** (82), **Charlie Lowen** (60) and **Jack Hastings** (46) had helped propel the visitors to 266-8. The 25 pts did at least assure Didsbury of second place. At the other end of the table, the clash between two struggling sides went the way of hosts **Toft** (231-4) who beat **Brooklands** (228) by 6 wkts. **Todd Walker** (63) and **Kevin Carroll**

(64) were again a class apart, but 5-48 from **Jimmy Lomas** kept the target within range, and with **Rob Jones** available to play, Toft set off at a decent rate. To their dismay, Jones only lasted six balls before being snared by the tireless **AJ Hart** - however, this proved to be a blessing in disguise as Toft youth came of age, **O'Shay Reddy** batting some 42 overs to compile a brilliant 101\*, his stand for the fourth wkt with **Rohan Fernando** (44) worth 130, and then brother **Genaro** hitting consecutive boundaries to bring up a sixth win for Toft, one which gave them a six point gap from the relegation zone, but a tricky trip to Widnes for them.

**Cheadle** remained in the drop zone but a second successive massive win - this time by 94 runs at **Neston** - left them in good heart to face Oxton at Kingsway. **Grappenhall** battled really well at **Nantwich** bowling the hosts out for a modest 224, but despite the heroics of **Arav Shetty** (83) Grappers were in strife at 177-8. Then, a spectacular late burst from no.10 **Kieran Lawton** (26 off 20) which took the score from 177-8 upto 213 threatened to pull off an amazing win, until **Olly Griffiths** (4-50) sealed an 11 run triumph for the Dabbers. Grappers ended the day four pts ahead of Cheadle but facing Alderley Edge on the final day. In the other game, normally a headline fixture but today of no real significance, **Hyde's Luke Young** put in a brilliant personal display against his former club **Chester BH**, 4 wkts and 53 as Hyde (127-3) won a low scoring game by 7 wkts.

## WK 22 - SEPTEMBER 16

An uncharacteristically feeble **Nant-**

**wich** effort at **Didsbury** saw them on their way home by mid-afternoon, **Steve Green** taking his 60th wkt of the season as the Dabbers folded for just 50. With the reigning champs knocking off the runs with little fuss, it was all eyes on **Grappenhall** for the pivotal clash of the day. Needing five pts to secure the title, **Alderley Edge** were asked to field, with New Zealander **Tom MacRury** rounding off a very impressive season with a composed 76. He was partnered in an important stand of 86 for the 5th by **Ben Bodha**, who passed a more than respectable 400 runs for the season in the process, as Grappers totalled 246-9, AE picking up four of the five pts needed in the meantime. The elusive fifth looked a long way away when they slumped to 76-6, but it was their main man **Chris Sanders** (37) again to the rescue, a priceless stand of 59 with **Tom Foreman** (24) taking AE past the magical 130 mark and the necessary batting point. They went on to be bowled out for 150 and thus ended the season in that always-odd-when-it-occurs way of celebrating despite losing (by 96 runs on this occasion), while Grappenhall celebrated their survival after a fourth win in five. Didsbury were left to rue the opportunities that had come and gone over the season in a desperately close title race. Incidentally, had the points been equal, with both sides having the same number of wins and losses, it would have been Didsbury's title by virtue of having more batting bonus points - it was that close. But a second runner-up spot in three seasons marked another

good year for the Wilmslow Rd side, while AE, led by the ever-impressive runs of **Sam Perry**

(pic) will enjoy the fruit of their labours after a 7 year wait for the Premier Division crown



was ended. At the other end of the table it was a sad day for **Cheadle**, who completely fluffed their lines at the crucial moment, two fine wins in September rendered of naught as the pressure of the occasion perhaps told, **Oxton** bowling them out for just 95 and going on to win by 6 wkts. It got even worse for the Kingsway side when news came through of **Toft's** 1 wkt loss at **Widnes**, which would have sent them down had Cheadle won (or got a decent winning draw). **Brooklands**, who needed a rare set of results to survive in any case, got nothing of the sort, and their 7 wkt loss to **Hyde** confirmed their return to Div 1 after a rarely-dull two year Prem stay, although they can have every confidence in returning quickly. In the other game **Chester BH** were heralding what onlookers felt was a breakthrough performance from **Robin Fisher**, whose 5-16 (& 26\*) helped them to an 89 run win over a **Neston** side who will be glad the season is over. Third at the end of June, the Parkgate side won only once more as they slid down the table.

## PERFORMANCES OF NOTE

2 Sept: Sam Perry 142\*, AE v Toft; Kevin Carroll 107, Brook v CBH; Angus Kilby 94, CBH v Brook; AJ Hart 9-54, Brook v CBH; Ben Broadhurst 6-22, Chead v Hyde; Steve Green 6-52, Dids v Neston

9 Sept: Aaqib Uppal 108, Wid v AE; O'Shay Reddy 101\*, Toft v Brook; James Lomas 5-48, Toft v Brook; Luke Young 53 & 11-2-43-4, Hyde v CBH;

16 Sept: Steve Green 5-12, Dids v Nant; Robin Fisher 5-16 (& 26\*) CBH v Nest; Tom MacRury 76 (& 3-30), Grapp v AE; Chris Sanders 37 (& 3-54), AE v Grapp

TEAM	PTS	HIGHEST	LOWEST	TOP BATTER	TOP WKTS
ALDERLEY EDGE	379	331-6	100	SAM PERRY - 859	JAMES NAYLOR - 36
DIDSBURY	378	322	123	ED NEWMAN - 622	STEVE GREEN - 60
HYDE	329	269-6	46	LUKE YOUNG - 669	LUKE YOUNG & DANIEL CRANMER - 43
CHESTER BH	316	305	96	ALEX MONEY - 632	JACK WILLIAMS - 47
WIDNES	310	301-7	103	ROHAN LUTHRA - 559	ERIC BOTHA - 36
NANTWICH	291	250-4	44	LUKE ROBINSON - 648	PHIL STOCKTON - 42
OXTON	288	238-3	112	HENRY DOBSON - 620	JORDAN COLLIER - 54
NESTON	269	267-6	97	DAVID HURST - 455	ASH DAVIS - 46
GRAPPENHALL	262	246-9	115	ARAV SHETTY - 614	TOM MacRURY - 52
TOFT	245	281-6	49	O'SHAY REDDY - 521	JIMMY LOMAS - 31
CHEADLE	234	274-6	69	ANDREJ YAKSENDER - 651	WILL HOLMES - 26
BROOKLANDS	222	268	84	TODD WALKER - 678	A.J.HART - 43

## SEPT. FORM GUIDE

TEAM	SEPT. PTS
DIDSBURY	75
WIDNES	61
GRAPPENHALL	57
ALDERLEY EDGE	55
HYDE	52
CHEADLE	51
BROOKLANDS	41
TOFT	40
CHESTER BH	32
OXTON	32
NANTWICH	29
NESTON	13

## LEADING RUNS

PLAYER	RUNS
SAM PERRY	859
BEN KOHLER-CADMORE	751
KEVIN CARROLL	712
TODD WALKER	678
LUKE YOUNG	669
ANDREJ YAKSENDER	651
LUKE ROBINSON	648
ALEX MONEY	632
ED NEWMAN	622
HENRY DOBSON	620
ARAV SHETTY	614
ROB SEHMI	610
SUBHAAN MAHMOOD	606

## LEADING WKTS

PLAYER	WKTS
STEVE GREEN	60
JORDAN COLLIER	54
TOM MacRURY	52
JACK WILLIAMS	47
ASH DAVIS	46
LUKE YOUNG	43
AJ HART	43
DANIEL CRANMER	43
PHIL STOCKTON	42
JASON FOULKES	40
LIAM BOOTH	38
ANDREW JACKSON	38
CHRIS STENHOUSE	37

## WICKETKEEPERS & FIELDERS

Angus Kilby of Chester BH had 22 ct, 10 st (plus 4 catches as a fielder, and an r/o) to end the season top of the w/k stats, followed by Nantwich's Spencer Byatt (20/1 & 1 r/o). Toft's O'Shay Reddy (14/6 and 1 catch as a fielder) and Oxtion's Conroy Burton with 11 catches, 7 st, 2 FC & 1 r/o were joint third.

Oxtion's Jack Corran and Neston's David Hurst, with 16 catches and a run out each, were the leading outfielders.



Grappenhall's New Zealand all-rounder Tom MacRury became the first player since Simon Normanton (then of Dids) in 2013 to score 500 runs and take 50 wkts in the Premier Division.

Source & Image: Grappenhall CC Twitter/X

**Bowdon returned to the Prem at the first time of asking as Div 1 champions, Timperley going up with them despite a last day loss to Alvanley, who although winning their last three games, still went down as Urmston, on an 11-game winless streak, beat Macclesfield.**

## WK 20 - SEPTEMBER 2

**Bowdon** and **Timperley** remained neck and neck at the top after both sides recorded convincing wins, albeit in differing circumstances. Bowdon's modest 169 all out at **Stockport Georgians** (**Matt Tully** 50, **Jordan Richards** 4-9) gave a hint of an opportunity but this was quickly snuffed out as the left arm pace of **Haydn George**, enjoying a well deserved call-up from the 2s, did some early damage. **Rob Lord** then stepped up to return 6-27 as Georgians fell to pieces, 45-2 turning into 65 all out as Bowdon won by a huge 104 runs. Meanwhile at Moorside Rd, **Viraj Sorathia** (96\*) and **Abishek Kulkarni** (50\*) added a magnificent unbroken 170 to usher Timperley to a sweeping 9 wkt win over **Urmston**, who themselves reached 103-1 (after opener **Harry Singh** faced 52 balls for a single) with **Ryan O'Brien** (65) and **Gautam Gn** (42) building a platform which then collapsed like a school roof as the hosts were 171 all out. It was another concerning day for Urmston, who have now gone 10 games without a win and as a consequence face a ticklish final two games, as **Alvanley** ground out a far from pretty but vitally important two wicket win at **Bramhall**. In what became something of a bums-off-seats encounter, the hosts laboured to 95 all out in 44.1 overs, **Chris Charles** with figures of 10-6-7-4 - not the way Bramhall would have hoped to mark the 25th anniversary of their move to Church Lane. However, possibly caught in the headlights of such a wonderful opportunity for 25 precious pts, Alv spluttered and stuttered to 63-8 in the 35th, **Liam Molloy** and **Simon Wilkinson** recording joint figures of 28-10-45-4 as the tension mounted but **James Ecclestone** (after earlier bowling 11-3-19-2) and **Ieuan Morris** dug in and helped their side stagger over the line in the 47th over, their hopes of survival still just

alive. The day did see the final act in **Congleton's** Div 1 life, their relegation confirmed after a walloping at **Lindow**. Despite being without key players, Cong bravely opted to bowl first and to their great delight found the edge of **James Duffy's** bat off the third ball of the match. Delight turned to despair, however, as the catch went down, Duffy well and truly making the opposition pay as he finished 116\*, adding 110 with Max Law (52) as Lindow totalled 222-8. **Muhammad Kashif** curiously only bowled 12 overs, his 4-49 featuring some sharp turn. The Lindow attack proved irresistible as Congleton were blown away for just 67 inside 20 overs, extras top scoring on a sad day for the south Cheshire side, who have had their moments in Div 1 but now will have to plot a path to return. Back at the other end of the table, **Sale** kept up their pursuit of the top two after an impressive unbroken stand of 155 between **Dan Newton** (85\*) and **Tyrone Lawrence** (75\*) secured an 8 wkt win at Dane Rd over **Oulton Park**, the hosts 20 pts behind but well capable of pouncing on any slip ups. **Macclesfield** did well to post 174 at **Romiley** after they were 101-7, but an opening stand of 137 between **Isaac Willett** (98) and **Ans Muhammad** (50) saw the hosts race to their target in just 25 overs.

## WK 21 - SEPTEMBER 9

The three-horse race at the top of the table intensified after an intriguing set of matches. **Bowdon** survived an almighty scare to beat **Lindow** by 3 wkts, the leaders reduced to 112-7 chasing 178 at South Downs Rd. Keeper **John Sanders** (56\*) and **Xander Selby** (16\*, after earlier taking 5-39) held their nerve to put together an unbroken stand of 68 to snatch

victory with just two balls remaining. **Max Law** had earlier made a fine 88 in his side's 177-8. **Timperley** were frustrated by a last wkt stand at **Macclesfield**, a mixture of youth and experience (please contact Macc to clarify which was which) denying them a win as **Sam Hughes** (32\*) and **Barney Cutbill** (16\*) batted out some 9 overs together to end on 135-9. **Viraj Sorathia** and **Caedence Kuepper** had earlier each made 57 in Timpers' 215-8. At Booth St, **Amyln Layton** returned a season's best 10-4-18-5 as **Sale** eased to a 6 wkt win over **Congleton**, while up in the Cheshire hills **Alvanley** made it back-to-back wins for the first time this season, skipper **Alex Read** leading the way with 84 and **Steve Charles** 59 in their 231-9 against **Romiley**. Read was immediately in the thick of it, running out **Ans Mohammad** for a duck. **Tom Rolph** then mirrored Read's captain's knock, last man out for an excellent 83 as Romiley lost by 52 runs. Thus the last day was fascinatingly poised, with Bowdon going to Sale and Alvanley, now in with a shot at survival, travelling to Timperley. That this was the case for the Alv was due to another torrid day for **Urmston**, whose decision to field first at **Stockport Georgians** backfired somewhat, SG clattering an eye-watering 339-8 with **Ned Bailey** smashing 7x6 and 12x4 in a 93-ball 117 and **Jordan Richards** hitting 8 of each in his 83-ball 103, a first century for him. A punchdrunk Urmston did well in response to start with, but 82-0 became 112-9 in the space of 15 overs as the innings simply

unravelling. The last pair battled desperately hard, occupying some 14 overs as they hit selectively and well, but Richards' golden day was topped off when he bowled **Suhel Gadim** (34) with his third ball with Urmston just two runs shy of another precious batting point. They finished with a 13 pt gap between them and Alvanley and the odds still in their favour with a home tie to finish the season, but a whacking 171 run defeat was another blow to their confidence. In the other game a third defeat in a row had **Oulton Park** wishing the season over quickly, visitors **Bramhall** winning by 6 wickets after key contributions from **Simon 'Spider' Wilkinson** (5-33) and **Greg Dixon** (71) who added 105 for the 2nd with Australian overseas **Liam Molloy** (45).

## WK 22 - SEPTEMBER 16

A dramatic day of cricket in Div 1 saw **Bowdon** complete an immediate return to the Premier Division with a comprehensive 111 run win at **Sale**, a result which also emphatically ended the hopes harboured by the Dane Rd outfit of promotion. Bowdon opted to bat first and found it hard going, their 179-8 reflecting a typically efficient display from the varied Sale attack, only **Shardul Viinoaday** (40 off 50) showing any real fluency. But Sale's reply was quickly in tatters as **Joe Chapple's** impressive season peaked at the perfect moment, clean bowling main man **Pat Ashling** second ball (pictured) before dismissing **Matt Spells** and **Dan Newton** in his third over, leaving Sale 18-4. When **Will Valentine** fell in the next over it was 22-5, and Sale could not recover, all



out inside 21 overs for just 68. That news quickly filtered across to **Timperley**, where the hosts had promotion/title ambitions of their own, whereas visitors **Alvanley** needed a win to have any chance of staving off relegation. And, against all odds, it was the visitors who swept home by a whopping 116 runs, a late cameo from **Charlie Fletcher** (65\* from 37 bs) lifting Alvanley to 202-7 before arguably their best bowling display of the season saw them skittle a strong Timpers line up for just 86. But with the result from Sale, Timperley knew they would return to the Premier Division after a two year absence. And the ecstasy for Alvanley went flat as, over at **Urmston**, **Harry Singh** - who was promptly withdrawn from the attack after his first over went for 16 - took a wicket with the first ball of his second spell, which left visitors **Macclesfield** 93-5 in the 32nd over in pursuit of 228 and thus crucially gave the hosts a second bowling bonus point. Added to the 8 they would get for their fine earlier batting display - **Lewis Jackson's** fine 93 the centrepiece of their 227-8 - and the likely three draw points they were

on course for would be sufficient for Urmston to survive, which they went on to do in the right way as Singh took two more wickets, and **Ryan O'Brien** 5-30, to seal a 55 run win. So there was much relief all round at Moorside Rd after a difficult season where they endured an alarming winless run, losing promising overseas player **Liam Marshall** who returned home early but greatly boosted by the return of Jackson and the all-round form of O'Brien and Singh. The other matches were purely of academic interest in terms of the table but there were some notable performances, **Simon Wilkinson's** remarkable 5-8 in 14 overs for **Bramhall** seeing hosts **Congleton** dismissed for just 60 and a 9 wicket victory completed with no alarms. **Oulton Park** ended a low-key 2023 on a high with their best total of the season, recovering from 8-2 to reach 282-7 at **Romiley**, **Pat Roberts** 57\*, **Frank Farrington** 52. **Andrew Dufty** chipped in with a handy 40 and then took 4 wickets, including the division's leading run scorer **Isaac Willett** for what turned out to be the top score of 30 in a flaccid **Romiley** reply of 111, their topsy-turvy season ending with them in a creditable fourth place. **Lindow** shuffled their batting order and paid the price as **Stockport Georgians** won by 7 wickets (**Ned Bailey** 67 off 34 bs) to achieve their objective of survival in their first year, SG 2nd XI also achieving promotion on a happy end to 2023 at Flowery Field.

## PERFORMANCES OF NOTE

2 Sept: James Duffy 116\*, Lind v Cong; Isaac Willett 98, Rom v Macc; Viraj Sorathia 96\*, Timp v Urms; Rob Lord 6-27, Bowd v SG; Tyrone Lawrence 75\* & 11-2-41-3, Sale v OP; Dan Newton 85\* & 9-3-17-1, Sale v OP;

9 Sept: Ned Bailey 117, SG v Urm; Jordan Richards 103, SG v Urm; Iuean Morris 5-16, Alv v Rom; Amlyn Layton 5-18, Sale v Cong; Chris Page 5-22, Timp v Macc; Simon Wilkinson 5-33, Bram v OP; Xander Selby 5-39 (& 16\*) Bow v Lind; Simon Normanton 5-49, SG v Urm;

17 Sept: Lewis Jackson 93, Urm v Macc; Alex Matthews 5-29, Lind v SG; Ryan O'Brien 5-30 (& 28), Urm v Macc; Simon Wilkinson 14-10-8-5, Bram v Cong; Andrew Dufty 40 & 4-47, OP v Rom

# CCCL DIVISION ONE



TEAM	PTS	HIGHEST	LOWEST	TOP BATTER	TOP WKTS
BOWDON	408	279-6	158	ROSS ZELEM - 524	XANDER SELBY - 43
TIMPERLEY	376	264-9	86	JONATHAN FLETCHER - 498	CAEDENCE KUEPPER - 46
SALE	366	264-2	43	DAN NEWTON - 638	DAN NEWTON - 33
ROMILEY	316	267-6	79	ISAAC WILLETT - 744	ALEX HOOTON - 39
MACCLESFIELD	309	229-8	125	BEN GIBSON - 515	CRAIG MELROSE - 31
LINDOW	305	283-3	108	JAMES DUFFY - 592	ALEX MATTHEWS - 33
BRAMHALL	281	249-8	54	NICK CANTELLO - 463	SIMON WILKINSON - 52
OULTON PARK	274	282-7	140	ANDREW METCALF - 521	ANDREW DUFTY - 50
STOCK.GEORGIANS	272	250-5	31	NED BAILEY - 639	SIMON NORMANTON - 62
URMSTON	242	265-6	48	RYAN O'BRIEN - 627	RYAN O'BRIEN - 30
ALVANLEY	229	240-6	66	ALEX REID - 378	MICHAEL ROWLANDS - 36
CONGLETON	141	230-7	59	ALI AZMAT - 410	MUHAMMAD KASHIF - 40

## SEPT. FORM GUIDE

TEAM	SEPT. PTS
TIMPERLEY	70
SALE	66
BOWDON	64
LINDOW	61
S.GEORGIANS	56
OULTON PARK	53
MACCLESFIELD	49
BRAMHALL	42
URMSTON	36
ALVANLEY	27
ROMILEY	26
CONGLETON	15

## LEADING RUNS

PLAYER	RUNS
ISAAC WILLETT	744
NED BAILEY	639
DAN NEWTON	638
RYAN O'BRIEN	627
PAT ASHLING	625
JAMES DUFFY	592
TYRONE LAWRENCE	589
ROSS ZELEM	524
MAX LAW	521
ANDREW METCALF	521
BEN GIBSON	515
JONATHAN FLETCHER	498
JACK MASSEY	476

## LEADING WKTS

PLAYER	WKTS
SIMON NORMANTON	62
SIMON WILKINSON	52
ANDREW DUFTY	50
CAEDENCE KUEPPER	46
XANDER SELBY	43
MUHAMMAD KASHIF	40
ROB LORD	39
ALEX HOOTON	39
JOE CHAPPLE	38
MICHAEL ROWLANDS	36
CHRIS PAGE	34
DAN NEWTON	33
ALEX MATTHEWS	33

## WICKETKEEPERS & FIELDERS

Bowdon's **John Sanders**, with 7 stumpings & 24 catches (and a r/o and fc) is top of the w/k stats at the end of the season, with Macc's **Ben Gibson** (6 st/21 ct) and Timperley's **Jonathan Fletcher** (19 ct/2 st, plus 4 FC) next on the list.

Stockport Georgians' **Ned Bailey** finished 2023 with has 18 catches to his name, making him the leading outfielder, with Tiperely's **Caedence Kuepper** rounding off a strong debut season with 15 catches



With 62 wkts and 387 league runs, Simon Normanton (pictured here bowling against Lindow) enjoyed a fine season for Stockport Georgians.

## WK 20 - SEPTEMBER 2

The day finished with **Davenham** and **Marple** neck and neck at the top, Davenham's greater number of wins putting them first. **Haslington**, for so long in one of those two places, chose the worst possible time to suffer a first defeat since July 29, going down by four wkts at **Port Sunlight**. Put into bat, Haslington reached 105-2 in the 18th over but the dismissal of **Tom Coppenhall** for 60 brought an abrupt change of fortune, 110-6 on the board three overs later. Haslington struggled on to 163 but ceded 14 overs to the hosts, who took advantage of such profligacy, using 61.3 overs to secure a 4 wkt win, the skilled Haslington attack held at bay. The leading two both eased to victory, **Davenham** having few problems overtaking **Cheadle Hulme's** pusillanimous 145-9, the 25 pts secured with some 12 overs to spare. **Marple** won emphatically at **Mobberley**, using just three bowlers as the hosts tumbled to 117 all out, **Osman Butt's** 47 the highest score of the match. Marple made the 118 needed in just 27 overs. Assuming both sides win their next match, the final day, when Marple travel to Butcher's Stile, should be a very special contest. At the bottom it was another miserable day for relegated **Christleton**, whose long trip to **Stockport** saw them muster just 81 after being put in - although from 37-7, it was actually a respectable score in its own small way. Stockport didn't have it all their own way in reply but got home by 5 wkts. **Ashton-on-Mersey** also suffered a setback in their hopes for survival, their hopes of a third straight win dashed as **N.E.Cheshire** won by 7 wkts at The Beets. Choosing to bat first, 70 from **Tom Scott** helped put AOM in a decent position at 193-5, but they crashed to 204 all out, giving the visitors the extra boost of five additional overs. In the event they weren't needed as **Jayden Camp** again proved a thorn in the hosts' flesh, following up his 147\* in the reverse fixture in June with a

magnificent 110\* this time, hitting 14x4 and 5x6 as he and **Will Westerby** (39\*) added an unbroken 118. AOM's mood was further blackened by news of **Hale Barns'** second win in their last 12 matches, HB winning by 81 runs at **Bollington**. Skipper **Johnathan Aikins** made 94 out of his side's 180-6 and then bowled 12 parsimonious overs, taking 2-16, but the writing was already on the wall for Bolly as **Sam Smith** returned 6-27, the hosts all out for just 99. HB thus gained a 14 pt cushion between themselves and AOM, with both sides facing an out-of-form Cheadle Hulme in their final two games.

## WK 21 - SEPTEMBER 9

Out of form they may have been, but **Cheadle Hulme** did enough to cobble together a 2 wkt victory which left **Ashton OM** in dire straits, 13 pts shy of safety now. In a typically low scoring encounter at Grove Park AOM, having been put in, were all over the show at 36-7, the wily **Andrew Wylie** taking 4-35 in a 14 over spell. Not for the first



IMAGE: IAN ROBERTS / AOM WEBSITE

time, captain **James Marshall** (pic) led the way, his 91-ball innings of 60 at least giving his side a final total of 142 to defend, James Lines' 44 also a standout. At 87-3, CH looked comfortable but Marshall then burst into life with the ball, his 15 over spell broken only by a change of ends as he snared 3-

35, CH suddenly on the ropes at 114-7 but the unusually wicketless **Tom Whitehouse** held on, his 27\* guiding his side home as AOM reflected on the dropped catches which cost them dearly. Their last game sees them entertain already relegated (and still winless) **Christleton**, whose thoroughly depressing campaign rounded off at home with a 9 wkt hammering by **Davenham**, who in turn assured themselves of promotion back to Division 1 after a 13th win of the year. **Harry Garner** took 4-22 and **Reece Johnson** 3-20 as the hosts hung on grimly for almost 39 overs, but could still only muster 97, which was knocked off with few problems. The other promotion spot is still up for grabs after **Marple** surprisingly came a cropper at home after posting an imposing 267-8 against visitors **Stockport**, **Grant Hodnett** passing 1,000 league runs for the season in the course of making 71, with 64 apiece from **Jacob Noakes** and **Max Fitzgerald**. **Zafar Jatoi** led the reply off brilliantly with 94 (109 bs), helped all the way down the order, and **Danny Barber** (26\*) boomed 3x4 and 2x6 in a 15-ball stay which saw his side win by 3 wkts with some 3 overs to spare. This meant that **Haslington** were still in with a shot at promotion after they walloped visitors wobbly **Mobberley** by 8 wkts, Mobb 39-8 after choosing to bat and only getting to 81 by **Matt Mountney's** 42\*, the potent Has attack led by **Jack Taylor's** 5-32. The hosts got the job done by the 18th over and travel to Stockport on the last day. As previously stated, Marple travel to Davenham, knowing that 9 pts secures them an immediate return to Div 1, and a 'bat-first' win, if attained, will secure them the title. Davenham know that 10 pts secures them the crown. Either of **Hale Barns** or **Bollington** could also be relegated if results go against

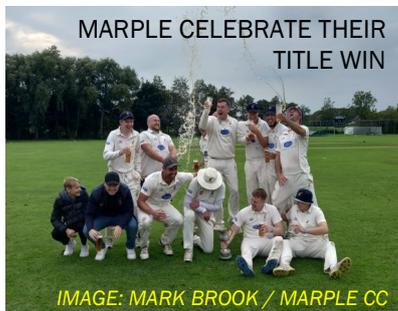
them after both sides got a bit of a hiding, HB going down by 66 runs at **NE Cheshire** and Bolly by 79 runs at **Port Sunlight**. Despite HB becoming the first team to dismiss **Jayden Camp** for a duck, NEC still racked up 215-9, **Saul Gould** 72, **Will Ritchie** 48. Four wkts apiece for **Toby Carson** and **Dave Oldfield** saw HB tumble from 143-6 after 43 to 149 all out just four overs later. Bolly suffered a collapse of their own after **Harri Dickinson** (39) and **Tom Horsfield** (49) led off their reply to PS's 225-7 strongly, but it all fell to bits after Horsfield's dismissal, **Martin Naylor** & **Tom Palin** taking 9-41 between them as Bolly were all out 146.

## WK 22 - SEPTEMBER 16

What a day of drama unfolded in Division 2, **Marple** coming from behind, so to speak, to clinch the league title after a clinical display at **Davenham** secured a 7 wkt win. Shrugging off the indifferent bowling and fielding of the week previ-

ous, **Albert Hall's** men were relentless, a couple of early run-outs well and truly putting the skids under the hosts with only **Mike Jamieson's** 54 bringing any cheer, Dav all out 130 inside 35 overs as **Grant Hodnett** & **Max Fitzgerald** each hit an unbeaten 43 in no time to secure an immediate return to Div 1. This in turn scuppered **Haslington's** hopes of going up, despite their easy 9 wkt win at **Stockport** rounding off another impressive season for them. Attention turned to the bottom of the table, where, despite having been in a relatively good position after the start of the month, **Hale Barns** eventually fell through the trapdoor after hundreds of refreshes of Play Cricket revealed the 5 pts they had gained from a 17 run defeat at the hands of **Cheadle Hulme** would not be enough. Chasing 202 for the win that would keep them up, HB were 179-4 but, perhaps with the pressure of the occasion, startlingly collapsed to 184 all out as **Archie Beckley** caused havoc. HB went down because **Ashton**

**OM**, having spent much of 2023 in the bottom two, produced their fight of the season at The Beets, led by inspirational skipper **James Marshall**, to overcome a **Christleton** side determined to chalk up that elusive first victory. Marshall and spinner **Mark Weighill** had earlier bowled 30 of 50 overs as the visitors made 184-7. Knowing that a win was the bare minimum to secure survival, AOM were taking a standing count at 117-7 after 36 overs, but, as the tension mounted and the light faded, Marshall and Weighill dug in to put together a priceless partnership of 69\*, the winning runs coming with just five balls in hand as an elated AOM celebrated. For Hale Barns, this was a hammer blow, and their worst fears were realised when it was confirmed that, despite collapsing from 142-6 to 143 all out and losing to **NE Cheshire, Bollington** had scraped together six points, to survive by just 3 pts.



MARPLE CELEBRATE THEIR TITLE WIN

IMAGE: MARK BROOK / MARPLE CC

## PERFORMANCES OF NOTE

**2 September:** Jayden Camp 110\*, NEC v AOM; Johnathan Aikins 94 (& 12.2-4-16-2), HB v Boll; Sam Smith 6-27, HB v Boll

**9 September:** Zafar Jatoti 94, Stock v Marp; Martin Naylor 5-26, PS v Boll; Jack Taylor 5-32, Hasl v Mobb; James Marshall 60 & 15-4-35-3, AOM v CH

### 16 September

Archie Beckley 5-14, CH v HB; James Marshall 46\* (& 15-7-28-2), AOM v Chris; Mark Weighill 4-62 (& 19\*), AOM v Chris;



GRANT HODNETT, MARPLE

IMAGE: GRANT HODNETT PT TWITTER / X

## DIVISION TWO TABLE AND FORM GUIDE

TEAM	PTS	TEAM	SEPT. PTS
MARPLE	384	N.E.CHESHIRE	75
DAVENHAM	376	MARPLE	61
HASLINGTON	367	HASLINGTON	56
N.E.CHESHIRE	323	PORT SUNLIGHT	56
CHEADLE HULME	311	CHEADLE HULME	55
MOBBERLEY	293	DAVENHAM	53
STOCKPORT	291	STOCKPORT	51
PORT SUNLIGHT	273	ASHTON OM	41
ASHTON ON MERSEY	226	HALE BARNES	36
BOLLINGTON	222	MOBBERLEY	27
HALE BARNES	219	BOLLINGTON	13
CHRISTLETON	118	CHRISTLETON	11

TOP BATTERS	RUNS	BEST
GRANT HODNETT (MAR)	1073	141*
JAYDEN CAMP (NEC)	866	150
OSMAN BUTT (MOBB)	657	115
JONATHAN AIKINS (HB)	637	94
BEN ISTEAD (HAS)	589	108*
JASON VAN DER MEULEN (DAV)	543	127*
TOP BOWLERS	WKTS	BEST
ABDUL AQEEL (MOBB)	53	7-20
MUHAMMAD ABID (DAV)	51	7-41
WILL FRASER-SMITH (MAR)	49	4-36
JOE COOPER (HB)	47	7-61
TOBY CARSON (NEC)	46	5-39
JACK TAYLOR (HAS)	45	6-25

## WK 20 - SEPTEMBER 2

Despite accumulating 421 pts in 2022, **Maritime** missed out on promotion by having won one less game than the Stockport side that finished second, but this day was the one that confirmed they won't be missing out this time around, a 5 wkt win at **Heaton Mersey** giving them a 52 pt cushion to third place. Choosing to bat first, HM found it very hard going, taking some 49 overs to accumulate just 96, just 3x4 and 2x6 hit in their entire innings as **Vishal Barigela** returned 5-0-7-4. Although not entirely straightforward, Maritime knocked off the runs needed in 25 overs, their lengthy journey home a happy one. In a similar way, **Hawk Green**, who finished 2022 with 420 pts - and more wins than the sides in third and second - edged closer to the other automatic promotion berth with a 6 wkt win at struggling **Barrow**, more wkts for skipper **Elliot Young** (6-29) and 50\* from **Tearan Gleeson** the principal contributions. There was a tense and watchable clash between two sides who could still attain promotion, **Ashley** coming out on top by a 5 wkt margin over **Oakmere**, whose 192-7 was built around another fine contribution from **Slade Mitrovich**, who finished 80\*. A superb 110 from **Syed Azam Shah**, supported by 51 from the prolific **Ammad Mushtaq** (who earlier took 4-32) saw Ashley home with some five overs to spare. There were also significant results at the foot of the table, **Northwich** picking up a precious 25 pts with their first win since July 1, a handsome 72 run win at Tattenhall. At 104-2 (**Pranav Dhanawade** 67) Northwich would have been hoping for more than the 183 they ended up with, but in the end it proved more than enough, **Alex Claridge-Ingham** and **Benedict Verma** returning 9-62 between them as Tatt fell in a heap, **Brett Taylor's** unbeaten 66 a tower of quality amidst the ruins of 111 all out. **Winnington Park** came out with what could prove to be a decisive victory in their basement battle with **Warrington**, WP's seemingly modest 156-9 35 more than Warrington could manage, their CCCL status left in serious jeopardy. In the other game,

**Upton** kept the **Kingsley** pair of **Joel Logan** and **Ben Stoddard** at bay, relatively speaking, the two leading Div 3 bowlers taking just three wkts between them as Upton totalled 205-9, **Dan Owen** 50. Kingsley's reply was in some strife at 95-5 but **Martyn Jenks** (67) and keeper **Matt Dunning** (59\*) added a crucial 73, before Dunning and **Pat Phelan** added 41\* for the 8th, Phelan hitting the winning boundary with two balls remaining.

## WK 21- SEPTEMBER 10

Another day of twists and turns in Div 3. The meeting of the top two at Upper Hibbert Lane saw hosts **Hawk Green** come out on top as leaders **Maritime** never really got going, managing just 139 (their last 4 wkts added just 9 runs). **Elliot Young** was again the key man, the HG captain making 50\* in his side's 6 wkt win having earlier taken 3-31. Maritime nevertheless needed just four pts from their final fixture to secure the crown. As for Hawk Green, 14 pts was their target from their final fixture to be sure of promotion, though with third place **Ashley** meeting fourth place **Kingsley** on the last day - both of who could overtake HG with the right set of results - it seemed most likely that HG would go up. Nonetheless, the two aforementioned clubs will no doubt push as hard as possible, **Kingsley** plunging visitors **Winnington Park** into despair after **Joel Logan's** sixth five-wkt haul of the season saw WP leave with zero pts after a 9 wkt hammering. **Ashley** - thanks to another excellent knock from **Syed Azam Shah** (62) and handy runs from (you guessed) **Ammad Mushtaq** (46) - won by 24 runs in a tough game at **Warrington**, who, led by **Thakkier Davids** superb 70, made 180, with (you guessed again) Mushtaq the leading bowler, 4-46. The 7 pts earned by the hosts kept them out of the relegation spots by a solitary point, after the performance of the day by **Barrow** saw them heft a 46 run win at **Oakmere** defending a moderate 133. Skipper

**James Hodgkinson** had a fabulous day with the ball, his 7-51 restricting the visitors to just 2.66 rpo, Ryan McLean's dogged 55 (129 bs) in the heat the key contribution. The worth of McLean's patience was shown as Oakmere, who were in the promotion places at the end of August, suffered successive defeats, only that man again **Slade Mitrovic** getting into double figures as the hosts collapsed from 68-5 to 87 all out, **Nick Mumford's** five wkts reward for his accuracy as Barrow gave themselves a lifeline, closing to within a point of third bottom Warrington, who, as luck would have it, visit the Croft on the final day on what promises to be a titanic struggle. With only one win from their last seven games, **Tattenhall** have tumbled back into trouble, losing by two wkts in a low-scoring tussle at the Flacca with **Heaton Mersey**. Tatt were in early strife at 6-3 as **Luke Marshall** got to business, dismissing key man Brett Taylor first ball (*pic*). The hosts then



recovered to 71-3 before collapsing as **Hassnain Shah's** spin saw him pick up 4-17, Tatt all out 104. HM found it no easier, however, and they were in a desperate hole at 74-8 before the 9th wkt pair patiently added the needed 31 in 10 overs. Tattenhall were thus 9 pts clear of the drop, but their destiny in their own hands. How **Northwich** wished that was true for them, their mid-table position in early July a distant memory now as they slumped back to the foot, a paltry 1 pt taken after a 7 wkt

hiding from visitors **Upton**. The most local derby in Cheshire cricket scheduled for the last day thus had way more than just bragging rights resting on it, as Northwich go round the corner to Winnington Park.

## WK 22 - SEPTEMBER 16

For sheer drama on the last day it was hard to beat the goings on in Div 3. At the top, **Maritime** claimed the title after an entertaining 21 run win over **Oakmere**, **Poorna Desilva** making 76 in their 202. Oakmere were going along nicely but a mid-order splutter saw them lose momentum, finally bowled out for 184. Going up with them, as the form book was upset, will be **Ashley**, after **Hawk Green** fell at the final hurdle for the second year in a row. **Ashley** wrapped up a surprisingly comfortable 53 run win over **Kingsley**, given that Ashley themselves only managed 143. **Ammad Mushtaq** top scored with 39, falling

just four runs short of 1,000 league runs for the season, while **Joel Logan** claimed a seventh 5-for of a superb year for the off-spinner, finishing with 72 league wkts, but sadly for him and his colleagues there was little else to cheer, Kingsley quickly 3-3 as Mushtaq took his wkts tally for the year to 44, and despite the potential prize of promotion on the line, they folded for just 90, leaving Ashley sitting pretty for the time being. Their elevation was confirmed after **Hawk Green's** game at **Heaton Mersey** was drawn, HG gambling on their batting to come up trumps after they chose to bowl first, but HM were in defiant mood, an opening stand of 98 paving the way for an eventual target of 234, a big ask on the last day in fading light, and when **Josh Hampson** was lbw to the first ball of the reply, HG had that sinking feeling. This was compounded when main man **Elliot Young** fell for just 7, with HG

reduced to 123-9 when Sam Messih's battling 58 (122 bs) was ended. The last pair rallied really well, keeper Jake Skelton (42\*) and Luke Hall (31\*) adding 76\* off 11.5 overs, but it was not enough, HG's hopes shattered once again. It was every bit as tense at **Winnington Park**, set 184 to win and assure themselves of safety, were reduced to clinging on grimly after **Northwich** reduced them to 36-4 in the 13th. Skipper **Alec Butcher** made a 30-ball duck as WP went totally on the defensive, their last pair shutting out 6 overs under intense pressure as Northwich tried everything to claim the last wkt that would have saved them from relegation and sent WP down. Amidst almost unbearable tension, **Andrew Jackson** and **Neil Langham** kept their cool, WP's 91-9 off 50 overs enough to keep them up and see their opponents relegated by just two points. **Barrow** confirmed their own safety with a handsome 67 run win over a strangely off-key **Warrington**, given that they needed a win (or healthy winning draw) to have a chance of survival. So when they folded meekly for just 97, it meant successive relegations for the Walton Lea club, and also confirmed that **Tattenhall**, who could also have gone down if results went a certain way, survived despite a 78 run defeat at **Upton**.

### PERFORMANCES OF NOTE

**2 Sep:** Syed Azam Shah 110, Ash v Oak; Elliot Young 6-29, HG v Barr; Benedict Verma 5-26, North v Tatt; Mel Dobson 5-40, Tatt v North; Ammad Muhtaq 51 & 4-32, Oak v Ash

**9 Sept:** James Hodgkinson 7-51, Oak v Barr; Joel Logan 5-25, King v WP; Nick Mumford 5-25, Barr v Oak; Luke Marshall 5-32, HM v Tatt

**16 Sept:** Matt Owen 91, Upt v Tatt; Thaakier Davids 5-26, Warr v Barr; Hassnain Shah 5-26, HM v HG; Joel Logan 5-42, King v Ash; Archie Mobbs 5-66, Tatt v Upt

## DIVISION THREE TABLE AND FORM GUIDE

TEAM	PTS	SEPT. FORM	PTS
MARITIME	370	ASHLEY	75
ASHLEY	336	UPTON	61
HAWK GREEN	331	HAWK GREEN	58
KINGSLEY	312	KINGSLEY	54
UPTON	306	MARITIME	53
OAKMERE	301	BARROW	53
HEATON MERSEY	289	HEATON MERSEY	42
BARROW	258	NORTHWICH	41
TATTENHALL	248	WINNINGTON PARK	30
WINNINGTON PARK	244	OAKMERE	19
NORTHWICH	242	WARRINGTON	16
WARRINGTON	238	TATTENHALL	14

TOP BATTERS	RUNS	BEST
AMMAD MUSHTAQ (ASH)	996	116
TEARAN GLEESON (HG)	814	123
DANIEL SEATON (UPT)	706	101
SLADE MITROVICH (OAK)	702	97*
ELLIOT YOUNG (HG)	649	102*
BRETT TAYLOR (TATT)	630	146*

TOP BOWLERS	WKTS	BEST
JOEL LOGAN (KING)	72	6-24
BEN STODDARD (KING)	51	7-27
ELLIOT YOUNG (HG)	49	8-30
VISHAL BARIGELA (MAR)	47	6-21
NICK MUMFORD (BARR)	47	6-48
JIBRAN S. KHAN (ASH)	46	6-39



# 2ND XI CRICKET - SEPTEMBER

**SUMMARY: PREMIER DIVISION: DIDSBURY 2s** are champions, going through the entire season without defeat. BOWDON finish as runners-up. NANTWICH were shattered by a last day loss to Didsbury, which meant they were relegated along with SALE, NESTON the side who narrowly escaped. **DIVISION ONE: WIDNES** are champions, with STOCKPORT GEORGIANS also promoted; ROMILEY and OULTON PARK are relegated, OP for the second year in a row. **DIVISION TWO: CHEADLE HULME** finished top, with DIDSBURY 2As also promoted; DAVENHAM and HALE BARNs drop down. **DIVISION THREE: MARITIME** (top) and CONGLETON go up.

With the destination of the title already determined as September started, the main focus in the 2nd XI Prem was at the other end of the table, as an intriguing set of results kept several clubs nervously checking and re-checking the points situation. Here's how the last three weeks unfolded.

**SEPT 2:** The crunch game at Whitehouse Lane went the way of **Nantwich**, who beat **Sale** by 6 wkts, the visitors only managing a disappointing 124. There was some encouragement for Sale though, as news came through of defeat for **Cheadle** at **Chester BH** after **Jake Wundke's** whirlwind 48\* (26 bs) suddenly took away a game that looked in the balance as CBH were 167-6 chasing 212. **Brooklands'** fine win away at **Neston**, chasing the 171 they needed with five overs unused, also meant the Parkgate side were still very much involved at the wrong end. It was a different story over at **Oxton**, however, who, not before time, pulled out a wonderful display to thrash **Toft**, **Ally Crick** bowling a remarkable spell of 9.5-6-6-5 as the visitors crashed to 59 all out, Oxton romping home by 9 wkts. **Didsbury** kept their unbeaten season going with a two wkt win in a close game at **Hyde**, while the indefatigable **Syed Bilal Hussain Shah** took 5 wkts and scored 50 as **Lindow** beat **Bowdon**.

**SEPT 9:** Defeats for **Nantwich** at **Brooklands** (by 6 wkts) and **Sale** at **Bowdon** (by 76 runs) left both victorious sides still able to claim runners-up spot, Brooklands with the advantage. Both beaten sides were, however, left in the drop zone and with their destinies now out of their own hands, as **Cheadle** picked up a vital 25 pts after skittling **Hyde** for just 44 and winning by 9 wkts. **Neston** had much the better of their draw at leaders **Didsbury**, picking up 15 pts as the Dids last pair batted out almost 12 overs, keeping their unbeaten season alive, but the extra 10 pts Neston missed out on kept them well and truly embroiled. **Alistair Crick** followed up his heroics of the previous week with 4-46 and 31\* as **Oxton** won again, this time at **CBH** to give themselves a golden chance of survival after struggling for much of the year.

**SEPT 9: Didsbury's Jack Harland** was the hero for the champions, who achieved their aim of an unbeaten season after a dramatic 1 wkt win over **Nantwich**, his 64-ball 15\* (after taking 4-37) meaning agony for the Dabbers, who went down as a result, joined by **Sale**, who needed 10 off the last over to beat **Toft** and survive, but ended up drawing. Neston thus got away with it, their three wkt defeat by Cheadle of no consequence in the end. **Alec Makin** hit 73\* as **Bowdon** pipped **Brooklands** - just - for the runners-up spot, Bowdon winning a good game by 2 wkts, while Hyde rattled up 309-5, beating Chester BH by 91 runs.

2ND XI PREM	PTS
DIDSBURY	437
BOWDON	345
BROOKLANDS	344
LINDOW	325
CHESTER BH	293
TOFT	259
HYDE	258
CHEADLE	243
OXTON	239
NESTON	228
NANTWICH	212
SALE	212

## 2ND XI DIVISION 1

Congratulations to champions **Widnes** who confirmed their place in next season's Prem with a game to spare, beating the other promoted side **Stockport Georgians** on the 9th, **Alex Curlett** (94) and **Louis Burns** (71\*) putting on 148 for the 4th after Widnes were 26-3 chasing 185. Their final game saw **Jonathan Cowan** return 6-3-5-5 as they hammered **Oulton Park**, whose second successive relegation had been confirmed some weeks ago. Skipper **Chris Dodd** made it 687 runs for SG, his 56 in their 7 wkt win over **Grappers** confirming their elevation and snuffing out the faint hopes of **Macclesfield**, who could have overtaken them, but whose draw with **Timperley** on the last day was ultimately of no consequence. **Romiley** were the other side to go down, winning only once all season. They did have a real go at **Timperley** on the 9th, **Joe McNeeny** (78) and **Sam Astley** (82) putting on 161 for the 1st wkt as they set Timpers 236, the hosts needed 13 off the last but finished 231-9.

## 2ND XI DIVISION 2

A thrilling race for promotion saw **Cheadle Hulme** crowned champions after three wins in Sept. **Didsbury 2As** also went up, beating Davenham on the 2nd (**Oisin Devlin-Cook** 11-5-8-6 in their win) but then losing to **Ashton OM** on the 9th, a six run win for AOM keeping alive their hopes of going up. They set Dids 200 to win, Dids set fair at 167-2 in the 42nd but collapsing disastrously to be all out 193, **Ryan Carey** making up for successive ducks with a terrific 6-27. But Dids still had a decent cushion and made sure with a 9 wkt demolition of luckless **Hale Barns** on the final day, HB 2nds mirroring their 1st XI by being relegated along with **Davenham**, who could have escaped with a win and a fair wind, but lost by 3 wkts at **Neston**, while **Warrington**, who could have been caught by Davenham, won all three games in Sept, a pivotal 4 wkt win at Hale Barns on the 9th especially significant, their lower order then the heroes in a courageous 2 wkt win at home to **Upton** which ensured their last day survival.

## 2ND XI DIVISION 3

Div 3 was all sorted as September came round, **Maritime** emulating their 1st XI by winning the division, with **Congleton** gaining promotion at the first attempt. Some spectacular all round displays and big wins for the top two included **Hakim Rauf** scoring 100\* for Maritime against Barrow in their 204 run win, followed the week after by **Bilal Anwar** scoring 150\* and taking 3-14 in a 96 run win over **Christleton**. Congleton's **Simon Prime** scored 96\* and added 124\* for the 8th with **Sean Cardall** (50\*) against Runcorn, Cardall then taking 4-50 in their 118 run win. The following week **Kevin Waterhouse** scored 100\* and took 4-13 as Cong won by 132 runs at **Bollington**. On the final day **Waterhouse** was again in the runs, 80\* (at no.9) before bowling 15-6-25-2 as **Ashley** chased 162 to win. They got there in the 57th over, nine down in a great finish. **Mobberley** were already in possession of the wooden spoon.

## 3RD XI PREMIER DIVISION

**Sale 3s** won their first Sunday Premier Division title since 2017 after they survived a few scares to overcome **Alderley Edge** on Sun 10th and clinch the crown by dint of having won one more game than **Stockport Georgians**, the two sides level on 58 pts. It was a disappointment for a Georgians team that lost only one league game - they went down by 7 wkts at Toft on Sept 3 (a result which ensured the hosts' survival) - and despite skittling an off-key **Didsbury**, could only watch on as Sale inched home on a rain-affected afternoon at Dane Rd. AE reached 203 having been 138-8, and in a nervy start to their reply, **Tom Jenkinson** edged between keeper and slip second ball before settling down to build an important stand with **Jared Moran**, but both fell within five balls, and when the experienced **Grant Whittaker** fell for just 9 the tension was palpable. At 104-5 in the 20th over came a key moment when **Gareth Watterson** appeared to be walking after an appeal for a catch at leg slip, but was adjudged by the umpire to have not hit the ball. The covers came on shortly afterwards and on the resumption, Sale's target had been reduced to 193 off 38 overs. In tandem with Lancs Thunder star **Shachi Pai**, Watterson hit astutely and, despite some close shaves, added a crucial 68 before he was bowled. Needing 21 off 29 balls, Pai and keeper **Ben Habershon** kept their cool, running well and hitting cleanly to see the target achieved with two overs in hand, the Sale team celebrating a memorable campaign in which they had been bowled out for 38, won games by 1 wkt and 1 run, by 10 wkts and 9 wkts, and two games by 180 and 102 run margins! At the other end, despite their defeat, Alderley Edge survived after winning one more game than **Bramhall**, who along with **Romiley** were relegated.



**Action from Sale v AE:** (top) Tom Jenkinson gets a life; (centre) controversy as Gareth Watterson is relieved (bottom); Shachi Pai and Ben Habershon complete the winning runs that seal the title.



## 3RD XI DIVISION 1

**GRAPPENHALL** secured a return to the Sunday top flight after finishing six pts clear, their final match an impressive win over **Didsbury 4s**, chasing their 197 target down for the loss of 5 wkts with 9 balls to spare, despite having earlier donated 42 extras to the Didsbury total. **Piyush Kumar** hit a superb 122\* as second place **Brooklands** crushed **Heaton Mersey** by 142 runs on the 3rd, but **Cheadle** beat Brooklands by 1 wkt in a close finish on the 10th, a result which saw the Kingsway side tied for third place with **Ashley**. At the bottom, despite beating **Ashton OM** by 7 wkts, **N.E. Cheshire** finished bottom. It was a strange situation as NEC won two more matches than AOM (who finished one place above them) but AOM had five games cancelled and crucially picked up concession pts from NEC on July 2.

## 3RD XI DIVISION 2

**TRAFFORD METROVICKS 3s** finished top of Div 2, two pts clear of **Stockport Trinity**, both sides losing only once in the season and both also winning their final games by concession, with third place **Stockport** 16 pts behind. It was a peculiar situation at the foot of the table, with **Timperley 6s** recording their only win of the season on the final day - assisted by the appearance of **Shahnawaz Khan**, they beat **Elworth** by 72 runs - but finishing ahead of both **Bredbury SM** (who finished bottom having won only once) and **Woodley**, who won four games - as many as Didsbury 5s, who finished fourth - including a 93 run triumph over BSM on the last day, but during the season conceded 3 games, which along with 5 rained off meant they only played nine times.

**3RD XI WEST DIVISION** was won by Davenham, who completed an unhurried 8 wkt win at Oakmere, reaching their target of 67 in the 26th over to make it 10 wins out of 14 during their campaign. Two pts behind them, runners-up Middlewich were in much more of a hurry in their 10 wkt win over Barrow, knocking off their 78 target in just 12 overs after having used all 10 outfield players to bowl. Thus it proved that Davenham's 1 wkt win off the penultimate ball against Middlewich in August was a critical result. Northwich finished bottom, level on pts with Lymm OP but winning a game fewer.

**3RD XI EAST DIVISION** was won by Trafford Metrovicks 4s, who finished 8 pts clear of Macclesfield Sun XI, but whose hopes of an unbeaten season were dashed in their last fixture, after they were beaten by Didsbury Wanderers on 3rd Sept. Set 179, TM slumped to 10-3, recovered to 110-4 before crashing to 110-8, finally all out 129. Macc's encouraging season also ended in defeat, a 15 run reverse against Hyde. Aidan Francis made 106\* for Stockport Georgians 4s in their 145 run win over Ashley, who ended bottom despite being level on pts with Heaton Mersey, HM having won a game more.

**3RD XI DIVISION 4** The inaugural Div 4 was won by Sale 4s, who finished 12 pts clear of second place Cheadle Hulme, thereby completing a Sunday double for the club. Prestbury conceded 6 matches, finishing bottom despite 4 wins.

# CHESHIRE SHIELD 2023

**FINAL HELD AT NORTH EAST CHESHIRE CC,  
SUNDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER**

**NORTH EAST CHESHIRE WON THE CHESHIRE SHIELD AFTER A 35 RUN WIN OVER MARPLE.**

**SCORES: N.E.CHESHIRE 201-9 (40 os),  
MARPLE 166-9 (40 os)**

**Umpires: Simon Pomfret and David Gane**

**Player of the Match: Danny Williams (NEC)**



**After being put into bat, N.E.Cheshire made home advantage count with an ultimately comfortable win on a beautiful afternoon.**

Both sides were in good form going into the final, coming off convincing victories in the league the day before, but it was to be the hosts who carried that on, capitalising on some loose Marple bowling after being put in, Sam Waller (37 off 26) and Jayden Camp (43 off 31) hitting well. The slow pitch which offered some uneven bounce was more effectively utilised by Marple as the game went on, the scoring rate slowing notably, but Danny Williams' patient 49\* (83 bs) helped NEC post an imposing 201, Marple ruing a number of missed catches along with their somewhat scattergun start. In reply, Toby Carson was relentlessly accurate as Marple struggled for fluency, requiring almost 7 an over at the halfway stage. Key man Grant Hodnett was brilliantly run out by Jayden Camp in the 33rd over to leave Marple on 120-6, and there was just too much to do from there.

Toby Carson (top left) returned 8-2-13-3, while Jayden Camp's superb direct hit from mid-wicket ran out Grant Hodnett. *Images: N.E.Cheshire Facebook*

## OVER 40s FINALS DAY

CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL CC

**CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL ('The Blazers') RETAINED THEIR OVER 40s CROWN ON A SPLENDID DAY AT FILKINS LANE ON SUNDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER.**

**S/F 1: WALLASEY 191-4 (20) beat BOLLINGTON VETERANS 160-7 (20)  
by 6 wkts**

**S/F 2: CHESTER BH 152-5 (20) beat DAVENHAM 95-9 (20)  
by 57 runs**

**FINAL: CHESTER BH 152-6 (20) beat WALLASEY 130 (20) by 22 runs**



No details were available of Wallasey's comfortable progression to the final, but holders Chester's equally smooth passage through their semi featured five of their top six passing 20, James Duffy retiring on 35\* as the Blazers posted a strong total. Davenham skipper Phil Sharples was then out first ball as all seven CBH bowlers took wickets. In the final, CBH posted exactly the same total as in their semi, Andrew McFarlane (33\* off 16) and Alex Barr (32\* off 21) led the way, Duffy hitting 29 off 25 and later taking two catches as well as 3-14 with ball in hand as he was awarded Player of the Match. A much fuller report of proceedings can be found on the CBH website.

*\* Match officials were Barrie Burns, Ankit Jahn, Graham Church & Mike Woollard (umpires), the latter two standing in the final, whilst scorers were James Law (CBH), Oliver Sutton (Wallasey), Michael Kouris (Davenham). The Bollington scorer was not known at time of writing.*

CHEADLE won the Over 40s Plate Final after a 38 run win over last year's winners Neston. Cheadle opted to bat first and hit 150-6 in their 20 overs, Paul Davies retiring on 34\*, John Bardsley and Adam Watkins each making 21. Simon Orton, only recently becoming eligible to play in this competition, took 4-25 as Neston, after a reasonable start, got themselves into a pickle, keeper Brian Beaver ending on 41\* as part of the last partnership.

# FAIR PLAY TABLES - 2023

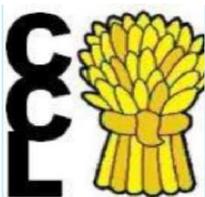
Umpire Simon Smith collates the Fair Play tables, which are based upon the marks submitted by umpires during the season. Simon writes: "The overall Fair Play average mark across all divisions in 2022 was 3.92. This year it was 3.91, due to the lower marks overall for Division 1 clubs. The mark increased in the Premier Division and stayed the same in Divisions 2 & 3, so although 2023 saw a slight drop overall, there are still generally good standards of behaviour in our 1st XI League games, given that a score of 4 equates to 'attained expected standard'. The average scores across divisions were: Premier League = 3.91 (2022 = 3.89); Division One = 3.89 (2022 = 3.92); Division Two = 3.93 (same as 2022) and Division Three = 3.94 (same as 2022).



Scores of 5 are given where expected standards are exceeded, notably when exceptional examples of sporting conduct and fair play are reported for commendation. Scores of 2 and 1 equate to more concerning levels of indiscipline and again requires an explanation from umpires, with sanctions following in most cases.

As can be seen from the tables the overall Fair Play trophy was shared between **Upton** and **Hale Barns**, with **Hyde** topping the Premier league table for the second successive year. Congratulations to all those clubs. It is also important for players and officials from clubs at the wrong end of these divisional tables - some for the second year in a row - to address the reasons for this and put plans in place to redress this position next season."

PREMIER DIVISION			DIVISION ONE			DIVISION TWO			DIVISION THREE		
TEAM	2023	2022	TEAM	2023	2022	TEAM	2023	2022	TEAM	2023	2022
HYDE	4.00	4.00	ALVANLEY	3.99	4.02	HALE BARNES	4.01	3.89	UPTON	4.01	3.97
Chester BH	3.99	3.87	S.Georgians	3.97	3.93	C.Hulme	4.00	3.98	Kingsley	3.99	3.98
Grappenhall	3.99	3.98	Macclesfield	3.96	3.97	N.E.Cheshire	3.99	3.99	Hawk Green	3.97	3.89
Oxton	3.99	3.97	Romiley	3.95	3.98	Marple	3.96	4.00	H.Mersey	3.97	-
Brooklands	3.97	3.88	Oulton Park	3.93	3.93	Port Sunlight	3.96	3.89	Oakmere	3.96	3.92
Cheadle	3.96	3.98	Urmston	3.90	3.92	Haslington	3.94	3.92	Tattenhall	3.96	4.00
Alderley Edge	3.93	3.98	Sale	3.89	3.98	Mobberley	3.93	4.02	Barrow	3.95	3.91
Didsbury	3.93	3.99	Bramhall	3.86	3.97	Davenham	3.91	3.78	Maritime	3.94	3.84
Toft	3.88	3.92	Lindow	3.85	3.98	Bollington	3.90	3.90	Northwich	3.94	-
Neston	3.81	3.81	Congleton	3.83	3.74	Ashton OM	3.88	3.97	W'ton Park	3.92	3.92
Widnes	3.79	3.80	Bowdon	3.82	3.88	Christleton	3.86	3.92	Warrington	3.91	3.92
Nantwich	3.72	3.75	Timperley	3.71	3.68	Stockport	3.83	3.93	Ashley	3.75	3.90



## CHESHIRE CRICKET LEAGUE

With 18 wins from 22 matches, Over Peover won CCL Div 1 and will make their County League bow in 2024, with Runcorn also returning. Despite knocking off 110 in just 9.5 overs, Wirral were relegated along with Bunbury. In Div 2 Middlewich had the satisfaction of a local derby win at Winsford to go up as champions, Cholmondeley also promoted despite losing by one run on the final day at relegated Appleton, who will be joined in Div 3 by the once-formidable Chester County Officers. In Div 3, where Aston go up as champions and Malpas as runners-up, there was a remarkable last day hurrah from Burton's Alex Hind, who thrashed 163\* from just 77 balls (18x6, 10x4), the hapless Heaton Mersey Village team diving for cover as 90 runs came off the last 5 overs, Burton an eye-popping 315-6 off 45 overs. Hind then chipped in with three catches and a wicket as Burton squeezed home by 206 runs. Despite this pulverizing, HMV avoided the wooden spoon as Glazebury brought up the rear, although they did at least have the pleasure of attaining win no.2 on the last day, beating Wistaston Village by 16 runs in a watchable game, WV recovering from 21-6 to just fall short of their 138 target.



IMAGE: OVER PEOVER INSTAGRAM



# LEAGUE DINNER

**Friday 6th October 2023  
7pm for 7.30pm**

**2 Course Dinner**

**Marquee at Toft Cricket Club**

**Speaker - Paul Nixon**  
Leicestershire CCC and England Player

**2023 Trophies and Award Presentation**

**Tickets £35 each**

Each league club will have minimum allocation of 3 tickets

**Contact: [CheshireCCL@gmail.com](mailto:CheshireCCL@gmail.com) or 07771624450**  
Numbers and dietary requirements by 22nd September  
with payment by 29th September

[www.cheshirecountycl.org.uk](http://www.cheshirecountycl.org.uk)  
[www.cheshirecountycl.play-cricket.com](http://www.cheshirecountycl.play-cricket.com)



And finally....my favourite cricket photo from 2023, an ominous sky, sadly an all-too familiar view during our season, was wonderfully captured by a Kingsley member and posted on the Kingsley Facebook page, at their U15s fixture on June 12.

Congratulations to all the winners, commiserations to those for whom it didn't quite pan out as hoped, and best wishes to all clubs, players, officials and volunteers for a safe close-season and a successful 2024.

Thanks for reading!