

CHESHIRE WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Division One – May 19:

[Appleton v Leigh](#): Leigh produced another decisive win in their quest to win the league title. Their total was only 167 this time, with the previous week's centurions Ellie Mason and Kirsten Smith making 56 and 33 respectively. This was still well beyond Appleton's reach, and they slipped to a third league defeat after being all out for 56. Mason continued her fine all-round start to the year with figures of 3-9, with Emma Capper taking 4-12.

[Nantwich v Chester Boughton Hall](#): Nantwich posted 133-7 batting first, failing to capitalise on the good platform they had at 99-1. Carys Lambe recorded a fine analysis of 3-20 in eight overs after Madi Hudson's 53 has earlier got Nantwich off to a good start. Nantwich remain very strong in the bowling department this year and were soon putting the squeeze on Chester. Grace Carter and Bethan Hughes took early wickets as Boughton Hall slipped to 34-5 and were finally all out for 95.

[Stockport Georgians v Oakmere](#): It's been a good start for Oakmere with two wins and a narrow run rate defeat to date. Here they dismissed Georgians for just 88, with Sarah Worsdale taking two early wickets. After Gaby McKeever and Skye Thomas' third wicket stand ended with the score on 61, the remaining wickets fell quickly, with Becky Jones taking four of them. Oakmere lost five wickets in reply but completed their chase with 10 overs to spare.

May 26:

[Leigh v Stockport Georgians](#): Breanna Craven and Tess Bailey put on 63 for Georgians' first wicket, but that was as good as things got for them as they added just 40 more. Ellie Mason has made headlines for her run making in previous seasons but has also made an excellent start to the year as a bowler for her new club, and here she took 4-25 as Leigh took control of the game. Louisa Reffell took three wickets for two runs to complete the job of dismissing Georgians for little more than 100. Mason then contributed another half century as Leigh completed a nine-wicket win.

May 27:

[Leigh v Chester Boughton Hall](#): Leigh are now in a very strong position after completing back-to-back wins over the holiday weekend. This wasn't quite the dominant Leigh performance of the previous day, but they reached their revised target of 100 at more than four runs per over, thanks mainly to Kirsten Smith and Sophie Heaton.

Didsbury v Nantwich: match cancelled.

Ellie Mason's knock of 133 for Leigh on May 12 now sits as the joint 11th highest innings in the period since 2005 – the time for which the league has kept detailed records. It is, however, only the third highest score made by Mason in that list!

| Player | Score | Opponents | Division | Year |
|----------------------------|-------|-------------------|----------|------|
| J. Halstead (Poynton) | 191* | Appleton | Only | 2005 |
| E. Mason (Stockport T.) | 160 | Chester BH | 1 | 2022 |
| E. Mason (Stockport T.) | 158 | Leigh | 1 | 2021 |
| H. Gradwell (Stockport T.) | 155 | Stalybridge St P. | 2 | 2012 |
| H. Cheadle (Lindow) | 149 | Oxton | 2 | 2022 |
| V. Dean (Bolton I.) | 141 | Bredbury St M. | 2 | 2011 |
| E. Jones (Porthill P.) | 138* | Chester BH | 1 | 2019 |
| A.Cutler (Chester BH) | 137* | Romiley | 1 | 2013 |
| K. Hartnett (Oakmere) | 135* | Wistaston V. | 1 | 2018 |
| D. Prestidge (Oakmere) | 134 | Didsbury | 1 | 2019 |
| S. Ecclestone (Chester BH) | 133* | Appleton | 1 | 2016 |
| E. Mason (Leigh) | 133 | Didsbury | 1 | 2024 |

Overall record in green and divisional records in yellow.

Division Two – May 19:

[Leyland v Upton](#): This meeting of two teams who decisively won their opening matches always promised to be close and it was Leyland who prevailed by one wicket with just two balls remaining. Charlie Scudder's 54 not out and 3-16 proved to be in vain as Grace Nuttall's 54 not out rescued Leyland from 16-4 and took them to their target of 129 in the final stages of this thrilling encounter.

[Buxton v Hawarden Park](#): Buxton have risen rapidly through the divisions in recent years and are now looking to make their mark in division two. Georgina Macey's 78 from 65 balls dominated the Buxton score of 149 all out, but Hawarden ultimately fell 13 short – after losing just one league match last year, the Welsh club have now suffered defeat in their opening three encounters.

Hayfield w/o Oxton

Fixtures awaiting possible re-arrangement:

Greenfield v Buxton – unfit ground on original date of 28/4

Division Three West

Fixtures awaiting possible re-arrangement:

Chester BH 2nd XI v Nantwich 2nd XI – unfit ground on original date of 14/5

Chester BH 2nd XI v Appleton 2nd XI – Appleton unable to fulfil fixture on original date of 26/5

Division Three East – May 19:

[Didsbury 2nd XI v Ashton-on-Mersey & Woodley](#): Despite Marika Smith's 43, AOM & Woodley found recovering from 10-3 just too difficult. Sasha Turnock (4-8) was Didsbury's bowling star as AOM & Woodley closed on 114. Jessye Sadler top scored with 45 in Didsbury's total of 144.

May 20:

[Ashton-on-Mersey & Woodley v Didsbury 2nd XI](#): In their second meeting in as many days, Didsbury prevailed again. Claire Anderton scored almost half of AOM & Woodley's 65 runs, with Tessa Robson (3-5) and Noreen Latif (2-6) proving very difficult to get away. Didsbury eventually got home with six overs to spare but lost early wickets and were grateful to Zoe Rigley's cameo of 18 from 16 balls to see them home from 40-5.

May 26:

[Lindow 2nd XI v Buxton 2nd XI](#): Buxton eventually made it to 50 all out here, but it could have been even worse, with Lindow new ball pair Charlotte Thompson and Libby Taylor wreaking havoc. Louise Long made the lion's share of the runs in an opening stand of 36 as Lindow completed a comfortable run chase.

Fixtures awaiting possible re-arrangement:

Didsbury 2nd XI v Buxton 2nd XI – no play due to rain on original date of 16/5

Division Three Cross-Divisional Matches

Fixtures awaiting possible re-arrangement:

JG Meakin Northern Stars v Buxton 2nd XI – unfit ground on original date of 21/4

Division Four West – May 19:

[Lymm Oughtrington Park v Kingsley](#): It was an excellent first day for Kingsley at this level, with Jules Bates, Tarryn Warman and Steph Woodstock all reaching the retirement score of 30 in their total of 120-1, setting up a 28-run win.

[Toft v Wistaston Village](#): Wistaston continued their strong start to the year, with Emily Hewett's four wickets and Dani Tilsley's three helping to dismiss Toft for 76. Tilsley also starred with the bat as the Crewe-based club raced to an eight-wicket win.

May 23:

[Wistaston Village v Oakmere 2nd XI](#): Wistaston were kept below three runs per over throughout, with Abbi Lamidey's three overs for four runs being the best figures. Lamidey teamed up with Carol Ingham with the bat to complete Oakmere's chase in quick time and seal a nine-wicket win.

Fixtures awaiting possible re-arrangement:

Grappenhall v Kingsley – no play due to rain on original date of 23/5

Division Four East

Fixtures awaiting mandatory re-arrangement:

Heaton Mersey & Cheadle v Hawk Green – ground unavailability on original date of 28/4
Hawk Green v Stockport – ground unavailability on original date of 19/5

Fixtures awaiting possible re-arrangement:

Didsbury 3rd XI v Heaton Mersey & Cheadle – no play due to rain on original date of 22/5

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Division Four South East – May 19

[Macclesfield v Buxton 3rd XI](#): Charlotte Lloyd's three wickets were the best return of any of the nine bowlers used by Macclesfield. Buxton only reached 67 in their 20 overs and Macclesfield won with seven wickets and 28 balls in hand.

[New Mills & High Peak North v North East Cheshire](#): Tor Gillis' 23 not out helped New Mills recover from 30-5 to 77-6. Caitlin Greatbatch and Rachel Monteath then ripped through the North East top order and New Mills eventually won by 24 runs.

Fixtures awaiting possible re-arrangement:

Buxton 3rd XI v Lindow Development XI – unfit ground on original date of 21/4

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Player loans:

Alys Evans – Chester BH to Hawarden Park for match on May 19 and up to one more league match in 2024

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Clubs' important messages

The League is pleased to announce that it can re-open the Small Grants application scheme. Provided they do not owe money to the league for balls, affiliation fees or anything else, all clubs are eligible to apply for £100 via this scheme, with those with two hardball and/or softball teams allowed to apply for £150 and those with three or more entitled to request £200. Please read the guidelines on the separate email – sent to club main representatives – carefully as these grants are only intended to fund a club's medium to long term development of female cricket and cannot be used to meet regular club expenses.

Clubs should note that all CWCL competitions use run rate to determine the result when weather/light intervenes before the normal number of overs have been bowled. The League does not, at present, use Duckworth Lewis Stern in any of its competitions.

Clubs should make contact with Martin as soon as possible if they are aware of any issues that might arise should the league choose to take down its Pitchero website. The League will need to pay £600 per year from July onwards if it wishes to retain this site.

Teams in division 4 and the Development Knockout are asked to note that the mandatory retirement score for batters is 30 in both of these competitions, not 25.

Clubs are asked to note that there will be no official deadline for re-arranging matches in late season, and that one match is already scheduled for September 22, so there will certainly be no issue with any other matches being scheduled for this date, provided, of course, that the regulations of your division allow re-arrangements.

Clubs are kindly asked not to activate the live score facility on Play Cricket until such time as they are very confident that they will actually have the means to do live scoring. Ideally, this would not be launched until the two teams have met at the ground and discussed scoring arrangements for the match. It does cause a variety of system issues if a match is launched as In Progress, but then no computer scoring takes place.

Clubs are asked to inform Martin by May 29 latest if they have any suitable candidates to captain the League XI versus MCC – a match that will take place at Lindow CC on Tuesday August 6. Any nominated person should already have played for the League XI in this fixture in previous years and should also have captaincy experience. The League understands that there is already one candidate for this captain's role but wishes to give other clubs the chance to nominate before the appointment is confirmed.

The next meeting of the League Committee will be on Wednesday July 24 at 1930, venue to be confirmed.

T20 DIVISIONAL COMPETITION

Western Division – May 20:

[Oakmere Kats v Appleton Tigers](#): Appleton have had a difficult start to the league season but prevailed here in the shorter format. Sarah Worsdale made 41 retired but Oakmere as a team were restricted to 97 in 20 overs, with Emily Page, Becca Othick and Kathryn Jackson all being particularly miserly bowlers. The Tigers were 24-3 at one stage in reply, but Maddie Lawson played the biggest role in seeing them to their target.

May 21:

[Nantwich Vipers v Chester Boughton Hall Deemons](#): This runs fest ended with Nantwich securing a victory by virtue of having a faster scoring rate after the players left the field after 13 overs of the reply, due to bad light. Just two wickets fell across the 33 overs that were possible as the batters made hay. Firstly, Georgia Munro and Meg Cureton made 40 retired for Chester, the latter from only 27 balls. In the reply, Nantwich kept up with the required rate almost all the way, with Madi Hudson making 34 and Morganne Prince 43 retired, both from 30 deliveries. Nantwich hit the final ball of their 13th over for four to take the score to 104, ensuring that they edged the match by virtue of having a run rate of exactly eight to Chester's 7.9 – had only two been scored from the delivery prior to the umpires calling a halt, the result would have gone the other way. After all that they contributed to this match, Chester had to make do with knowing that their total of 158 now enters the record books as the highest losing score in the competition's history.

Eastern Division – May 20:

[Buxton v Lindow](#): National T20 semi-finalists of 2023, Lindow began their quest to win a first Cheshire T20 title with a comfortable win over competition newcomers Buxton. Heidi Cheadle made 40 retired from 25 balls and Holly Topp 30 at a run a ball as the Wilmslow team reached 150. Buxton replied with 94, with Georgina Macey continuing her good start to the year with 41 from 23 deliveries.

LEAGUE TABLES

[All CWCL League Tables](#)

KNOCKOUT CUPS

Senior Knockout Quarter Final – May 27:

[Lindow v Upton](#): Lindow are the first club through to the semi-finals after a commanding win here. Holly Topp and Emily Murray both reached the retirement score of 40 at around one per ball as the Wilmslow club lost just one wicket in chasing 104. Upton had made a good start via Philippa Dagger and Charlie Scudder but were kept down to 14 in their last six overs. A semi-final at Appleton or Oakmere now awaits Lindow.

Development Knockout Round One – May 14:

[Hawk Green v Buxton 2nd XI](#): It's still rare for a Division 4 side to beat a Division 3 team in this competition, and eventually the higher ranked team (Buxton) did progress here, but not after a scare. Both teams' scorecards were heavily skewed towards top order runs, with Hawk Green's Rebecca Edmundson and Richmal Giles and Buxton's Amy Simcox all reaching the retirement score.

[North East Cheshire v Ashton-on-Mersey & Woodley](#): Another narrow win for the division three side here. Ashton-on-Mersey and Woodley's innings of 103 saw the home side fail to take a wicket, with Claire Anderton – who reached the retirement score – and Nicola Derbyshire and Clare Edwards all in the runs. North East eventually fell 10 runs short, with the bowling contributions of Marika Smith and Georgie Gorman proving crucial.

NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

Cup Round Two – May 19:

[Didsbury v Burnley](#): It's been rare in recent years for a Cheshire League side to lose out to a Lancashire League team in this competition, but that's what nearly happened here, before Didsbury pulled an extraordinary win out of the hat. Despite having no individual score higher than 24, Didsbury's 20-over total of 130 looked competitive. Burnley, however, reached 75 after eight overs in reply, almost entirely due to a blistering 54 from 25 balls by Iqra Shafqat. Two wickets in three balls from Zoe Conway – including that of Shafqat – halted the momentum, only for Burnley to put another stand together and look set for victory at 116-3. Pooja Singh and Zara Matthews claimed three wickets each in the final collapse and sent their Didsbury side through to face Leyland or Nantwich.

SENIOR WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

There will be a comprehensive series of [women and girls' softball festivals](#) across Cheshire this summer.

Cheshire continues to offer its wide range of [umpiring and scoring courses](#).