



THE WEEK 19 REVIEW

Decisive turns in the various title battles and relegation dogfights as the late summer element of the season kicked in.

The **Prem** title looks like it is down to two clubs contesting it, Hyde favourites after a 13th win of the season over a historical bogey side for them in Alderley Edge. Put in, AE slumped to 92-6 before rain caused a 90 min stoppage, the game down to 43 overs, but it scarcely mattered as Danny Cranmer's 4-23 saw AE dismissed for just 114, extras their second highest scorer. Hyde went on to complete a comfortable 7 wkt win as conditions eased. Nantwich had to work a lot harder at Grappenhall for their 50 run win in a low scoring match, Jimmy Warrington (6-27) their leading light as Grappers were bowled out for 107, the Dabbers past 300 pts now and 24 behind the leaders - so the match at Whitehouse Lane next week between first and second will be a crucial contest (their previous scheduled meeting this season was washed out). Didsbury and Chester BH swapped places again, Dids third after a polished 6 wkt win over Oxton, while CBH suffered a surprise 3 wkt reverse at home to lowly Bowdon on what looked like a tough day for batting at Filkins Lane. CBH managed just 152-8 in their allocation, Bowdon inching carefully home in the 47th to claim a priceless 20 pts. That win became more significant when Timperley squeezed home by 1 wkt in a thrilling chase of 252 at Widnes, and also when news of successive wins for Toft was confirmed. Henry Hughes continued his fine form with 66 as a 19 run win over struggling Neston was secured, Neston dropping back into the relegation spots but still with just 24 pts separating four sides. Other results meant it wasn't as good a day for Toft as it might have otherwise been but nevertheless, with nothing now to lose, their confidence has received a crucial boost.

The **Div 1** leading sides both won, Lindow's Alex Matthews thumping 39 (the highest score of the game) and then taking 4-11 as Stockport Georgians were skittled for just 54 at Flowery Field, Georgians (chasing 136) losing 6-7 in some 5 overs in a startling collapse. Brooklands look assured of an immediate return to the Prem after a 62 run win at struggling Romiley. Despite a fine 7th wkt stand of 80 between skipper Alex Hooton (60) and Luke Sumner (41*) the hosts look increasingly likely to drop into Div 2, as do Davenham, who ran into one of the division's form sides in Sale, who made it three wins in a row (and seven out of their last nine) as Ben Watkin's 6-30 saw Dav all out 133, Sale home by 6 wkts in the 32nd over. Talking of form, Bramhall's Greg Dixon must be hoping the season never ends, a second successive ton for the wk/opener at Urmston the cornerstone of their 80 run win. Dixon's amazing run of scores

CONT.



WEEK 19 1ST XI REVIEW cont.

(highlighted in last week's newsletter) and now this third ton of 2024 sees him with almost 750 league runs. Bramhall remain in Lindow's slipstream and could pounce on any slip ups. As for Urmston, their strong recent run has given them breathing space at the wrong end, while Oulton Park are also grateful that the bottom two have had such a lean time. OP still have daylight between them and the drop zone but a 12th defeat of the season saw that gap close a little to 47 pts, as their recovery from 124-5 to 238-9 proved not enough, Marple's overseas Zac Phair playing easily his best knock of the season with a superb 114* which guided his side to a 3 wkt win with four balls remaining in a gripping game. Nick Ball, with 60 and 3-22, was the standout for OP, who have three away games in their remaining four and have to play all of the current top three sides. In the other match veteran Khalid Sawas made 56* as Macclesfield beat Cheadle by 5 wkts in a rain-affected game.

Since July 6th just one point has separated Port Sunlight and Maritime at the top of [Div 2](#) and the pair remain locked in the tightest possible battle for the title, both winning again on Saturday. Maritime chalked up a 57 run win over an all-but relegated Mobberley, while Port Sunlight made 264-5 at Cale Green (the only divisional total in excess of 200) as they ran out 93 run winners over Stockport. The teams meet on Sept 7 in the epitome of a 'big game'. Ieuan Morris took 6-36 for Alvanley as they kept up their pursuit in third, beating Haslington by 5 wkts, but Cheadle Hulme's miserable run of form - just 22 pts from their last 5 games - has extinguished their promotion ambitions. Bollington became the latest side to beat them, winning by 50 runs at Grove Park, while at Poynton, NE Cheshire lost all 10 wkts for 86 after their opening pair put on 94 against Ashley - however it was still more than enough as the struggling visitors mustered just 121. Having lost by one run last week, more agony for Ashton OM, the 28 added by the last Congleton pair at Booth St proving crucial as AOM's pursuit of 159 fell agonisingly short by just 7 runs. All of which leaves 6 clubs separated by only 29 pts.

Upton's massive 137 run win at Runcorn took them one step closer to the [Div 3](#) trophy, Christleton hoping to still be in with a shout when the two sides meet on Sept 14 after they won a high-scoring game (featuring 67 extras) at Barrow. In any event, barring a highly unlikely set of results, both will be promoted, third-place Oakmere 45 pts away after a grinding 5 wkt win over Tattenhall, while Hawk Green and Heaton Mersey look to be too far back despite wins by 31 runs (at Kingsley) and 112 runs over visitors Winnington Park respectively, WP dropping from third to sixth as a result. Josh Agar (116) and Sanjeev Bhatia (75) added 197 for the second Hale Barns wkt as they powered to 289-7 and a handsome 95 run win at Over Peover, giving HB a 22 pt cushion from the relegation zone.

1ST XI PREM		
TEAM	PTS	MONTH
HYDE	330	63
NANTWICH	306	53
DIDSBURY	285	67
CHESTER BH	279	36
OXTON	252	67
ALDERLEY EDGE	225	66
WIDNES	198	38
TIMPERLEY	184	54
GRAPPENHALL	173	32
BOWDON	163	34
NESTON	160	53
TOFT	131	51

1ST XI DIV 1		
TEAM	PTS	MONTH
BROOKLANDS	302	67
LINDOW	287	65
BRAMHALL	252	64
MACCLESFIELD	241	66
MARPLE	228	32
SALE	225	68
CHEADLE	222	48
S.GEORGIANS	191	29
URMSTON	181	64
OULTON PARK	174	21
DAVENHAM	127	31
ROMILEY	127	33

1ST XI DIV 2		
TEAM	PTS	MONTH
PORT SUNLIGHT	316	80
MARITIME	315	80
ALVANLEY	273	63
CHEADLE HULME	239	17
NE CHESHIRE	211	63
BOLLINGTON	193	32
STOCKPORT	189	50
HASLINGTON	187	32
CONGLETON	183	65
ASHTON OM	174	37
ASHLEY	164	30
MOBBERLEY	114	35

1ST XI DIV 3		
TEAM	PTS	MONTH
UPTON	310	80
CHRISTLETON	275	63
OAKMERE	230	66
HAWK GREEN	229	64
HEATON MERSEY	223	66
WINNINGTON PARK	223	21
KINGSLEY	203	52
TATTENHALL	197	47
HALE BARNES	167	47
BARROW	158	18
RUNCORN	145	44
OVER PEOVER	145	14

2ND XI PREM	
TEAM	PTS
DIDSBURY	305
CHESTER BH	283
OXTON	253
WIDNES	238
CHEADLE	224
BROOKLANDS	216
S.GEORGIANS	198
NESTON	190
TOFT	180
HYDE	178
LINDOW	120
BOWDON	111

2ND XI DIV 1	
TOP & BOTTOM	PTS
1. NANTWICH	285
2. TIMPERLEY	256
3. SALE	218
11. A.EDGE	174
12. C.HULME	86



2ND XI DIV 2	
TOP & BOTTOM	PTS
1. UPTON 2	324
2. MARITIME	318
3. URMSTON	252
11. NESTON	138
12. WARRINGTON	135

2ND XI DIV 3	
TOP & BOTTOM	PTS
1. UPTON 3	296
2. OAKMERE	281
3. ASHLEY	252
11. OXTON 3	153
12. BARROW	125

3RD XI SUN PREM	
TEAM	PTS
SALE	122
DIDSBURY	116
BROOKLANDS	102
S.GEORGIANS	86
TIMPERLEY	80
TOFT	78
MARPLE & COMP.	52
NANTWICH	46
GRAPPENHALL	46
ALDERLEY EDGE	-8

3RD XI SUN DIV 1	
TOP & BOTTOM	PTS
ASHLEY	156
DIDSBURY 4	132
A.O.MERSEY	38
ROMILEY	32

3RD XI SUN DIV 2	
TOP & BOTTOM	PTS
T.METROVICKS 4	154
DIDSBURY 5	110
STOCKPORT	48
TIMPERLEY 6	38

SUN 3RD XI OTHER DIVISIONS

Div 3 East: Top - Stockport Georgians 4s
2nd - Macclesfield

Div 3 West: Runcorn, Widnes and
Middlewich all on 124 pts after 17 games

Div 4: Top - Lindow
2nd - Cheadle Hulme



WEEK 19 2ND & 3RD XI CRICKET

2ND XI CRICKET: Didsbury had to dig deep to keep their noses in front at the top of the Prem, a hard-fought 2 wkt win at Neston courtesy of a 9th wkt stand of 41*, Tom Bidwell (60*) the mainstay after an stand of 72 for the 5th with Jack Airey (67). Will Brewster earlier made a fine 85 for the hosts. Chester BH kept up their pursuit, a fine 110 from Freddie Ogilby - who shared stands of 95 and 87 for the 1st and 2nd wkts - powering them to 284-4 at lowly Lindow, who folded for 133 and look virtually certain of dropping into Div 1 next season. A surprise defeat for third place Widnes at bottom side Bowdon had little impact on the hosts' inevitable fate either, while Oxton leapfrogged Widnes with a win over Stockport Georgians, whose long trek battling the Cream-fields traffic was compounded by a 6 wkt defeat after managing just 122.

In **Div 1** Jake Pearson's 82* guided Nantwich to their target of 174 as the leaders beat third-place Sale in the key game of the day. Six Sale batters were caught by the keeper as they battled hard from 116-7 to make 173, but Pearson's class told as his side held on despite being 72-6 at one stage. Second place Timperley eased past bottom side Cheadle Hulme, who became the first Saturday team to be formally relegated as a result. Who goes down with them is far from certain, 7 sides separated by just 33 pts. Alderley Edge, currently in the other drop spot, made it three wins in a row after beating Macclesfield and closed to within 14 pts of Bramhall.

In **Div 2** Upton won again to all but assure themselves of promotion at least, 72 pts ahead of third-place Urmston, while Bilal Anwar's 101 helped second place Maritime to a big win at Warrington and one step closer to Div 1. At the foot, despite losing, Romiley moved out of the bottom two after Neston 3s got zero pts in their heavy loss to Congleton.

Div 3 remained largely unchanged after Saturday's games, leaders Upton beating Hale Barns by 99 runs while second place Oakmere squeezed hom by 8 runs in a tense win at Tattenhall. Despite both winning, Oxton and Barrow remain in the relegation zone after Bollington, bottom two for so long, won a third game in four to stay 8 pts clear.

Sunday 3rd XI cricket in the **Prem** saw the top two sides both victorious, which effectively leaves Sale needing to win (or take at least 8 pts from) their remaining game at Nantwich to claim a second successive title. Nantwich have plenty to play for, needing the pts to avoid the drop, with Grappenhall (currently second bottom) having four games still to play. Ashley and Didsbury 4s look the most likely to come up from **Div 1**, both winning on Sunday.



CHESHIRE CUP UPDATE

Both semi-finals - Hyde v Bowdon and Elworth v Didsbury - take place this Sunday (Sept 1st) with the final scheduled for a week later.

CHESHIRE SHIELD UPDATE

Maritime will host Parkfield Liscard in the Final, to be played on Sunday (Sept 1st).

2ND XI FINALS DAY

Sunday September 1st at Chester BH. Semi-final draw: Chester BH v Widnes, Lindow v Didsbury 2s.

3RD XI FINALS DAY

Didsbury 3s won their fifth 3rd XI T20 trophy in six seasons after winning both their games in what, after the 11th hour withdrawal of Nantwich, was a three-club round-robin tournament on BH Monday, excellently hosted by Brooklands. The hosts had a tough day, asking Didsbury 4s to bat in the first game, only to see them hammer 199-5 (Madhukar Mekhala 81 off 32), and then losing by 7 wkts to the 3s, while the two Didsbury clubs met in the final fixture, the 3s Shabih Shah, having made 60* in the 3s first match, finishing 68* as the 3s beat the 4s by 7 wkts.

OVER 40's FINALS DAY

At the time of writing two Cup QFs (Brooklands v Hyde and Offerton v Sale) are still to be played. Holders Chester BH and Wallasey are already through to Finals Day. Ashley will face the winner of Grappenhall and Bramhall in the Plate final, that match scheduled for Weds 28th Aug.

ECB NATIONAL CLUB T20 AND CHESHIRE CC NEWS

Oxton lost out in the semi-final of the Northern Region finals day, eventual winners Northern beating them by 60 runs. Oxton were without Harry Dearden who was on Cheshire duty at Wormsley, Cheshire losing out in the NCCA KO final to Norfolk. Time and space have not permitted fuller coverage of Cheshire's fine season in this newsletter, but the well-maintained Cheshire CC website is full of information and reports about all of their matches.