

FINALS DAY REPORTS

Senior Knockout: Lindow 106-8, Didsbury Swordettes 108-4

Didsbury landed their third Senior Knockout title, with their bowlers taking control and restricting Lindow to a below par score, before completing a fairly comfortable run chase.

Heidi Cheadle and Carys White added 47 for the first wicket in the opening seven overs, but any hopes that this would lay the platform for a significant total were swiftly dispelled. Hannah Marshall took the first two wickets inside four balls, swiftly followed by two more for Rosie Ackerley.

Besides Cheadle's 43 retired from 33 balls, scores of 19 from White and Claire Ashworth were the only double figure scores, and most observers felt that the final total of 106 would not be enough. Several wickets fell to impressive catches in an eye-catching all-round fielding display from Didsbury.

In contrast, Didsbury not only started the innings at six runs per over, but largely maintained it throughout. Zoe Conway's cameo played an important role in getting them off to a fast start. Grace Hemsted caused some difficulties for a time, and the door was briefly open for Lindow when their opponents were 66-4.

Kashmira Shinde responded by completing her innings of 42 retired with a flourish, and the South Manchester team got home with all of 13 balls in hand.

Development Knockout: Didsbury 2nd XI 114-8, Chester Boughton Hall 2nd XI 80-5

A superb day for the Didsbury club was completed here with a dominant performance in the final of the competition for division three and four teams. In doing so, they made a strong case for having one of the best second strings ever seen in the league, with this 2nd XI also riding high in Division 3 East.

After being restricted to 14 in the first five overs, Didsbury responded with 100 more in the remaining 15. Romilee Cabral tops cored with 30 retired at the top of the order, and despite the loss of regular wickets, the scoring rate continued to be rapid, with Amy Walkman and Noreen Latif amongst those playing their part.

Abbey Mayers contributed three wickets and Shree Dayama bowled her four overs for 10, but the overall impression was that Didsbury had posted a formidable total.

What was already a difficult start for Chester got worse when Amy Walkman struck twice in successive deliveries, and they eventually fell more than 30 runs short.

T20 Divisional Competition – Nantwich Vipers 122-3, Lindow 117-7

After winning the Senior Knockout in 2022 and 2023, Nantwich won the league's other prestigious T20 trophy this time. The feat of landing one or both of the senior trophies in three successive years has certainly not been accomplished since Chester Boughton Hall's dominance of the late 2000s and early 2010s.

It was therefore double heartbreak for Lindow, with the crucial period coming in the last 10 overs of the first innings, when 77 runs were added. After some impressive opening overs from Emilia Rossi and Libby Ackerley, Nantwich hit the accelerator pedal from the halfway point, with vital contributions from Grace Michell and Charlotte Neal. It all left Lindow needing to chase a total that was 17 runs larger than the team total they made in the morning's final.

When three wickets went down in the first five overs of the reply, with Eleanor Sinker and Charlotte Kirk causing significant problems, the Wilmslow club's task looked even harder. Having held a number of these triple-header Finals Days over the years though, the League knows all too well that it's practically an unwritten rule that at least one match will go down to the wire.

From the start of their fourth wicket partnership, Grace Hemsted and Emily Murray looked in good form, and they gradually rebuilt the innings, adding another 79 runs to take their team to 93.

Hemsted departed after reaching the retirement score of 40 from 35 deliveries, but Lindow really needed Murray to reach this milestone as well. One of the most crucial deliveries of the match came when Sinker returned for her second spell and dismissed Murray for 35.

Although the likes of Katie Farmer kept swinging to the end, it always seemed that Nantwich were slight favourites, and a composed final over from Emily Clamp put the seal on a five-run victory.

The League extends its thanks to host club Hale Barns and to umpires Duane Jones, Keith Wells, Chris Moore and John Bone.

CHESHIRE WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Division One – August 18:

Leigh v Lindow: Leigh, Didsbury and Nantwich certainly remain in title contention, but it's now hard to argue that Lindow are also in the mix. Ellie Mason smashed 135 not out from 124 balls, with 22 fours and one six – her second ton of the year – as Leigh racked up 231-4. Sophie Heaton and Kirsten Smith made quick 30s to support their opener's massive contribution. Emily Murray made 98 in reply, with Katie Farmer adding 49, and at 156-1, a famous run chase looked very likely, before Lindow fell away to finish on 207-5. Leigh are looking well placed to retain the title they won two years ago, but remain just 14 points ahead. Mason also stands a good chance of breaking her own league record for the most runs in a season, which stands at 752, made when she was a Stockport Trinity player. Lindow's Heidi Cheadle also remains a candidate to overtake this mark.

Didsbury v Oakmere: A comfortable 60-run win over Oakmere kept Didsbury's Championship hopes alive. In a match that lacked a significant innings, Roshini Prince-Navaratnam's 42 was the top score, supported by scores in the 20s from Zoe Coombes and Kashmira Shinde as Didsbury reached 164-7. Oakmere could not produce an individual score higher than Emily Faulkner's 21 not out, as regular wickets fell, especially to Rosie Ackerley (3-18) and Zara Matthews (2-20).

Nantwich v Appleton: Seeking a first ever title, Nantwich are in turn just one point behind Didsbury. Grace Michell was the day's second centurion, with an unbeaten 108 in her side's total of 181-1. Eleanor Sinker's excellent form continued with three wickets for six runs as Appleton closed on 118.

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Division Two – August 11:

Buxton v Upton: Lily Scudder's superb season continued with an unbeaten 94 as Upton recorded a successful run chase of 144-4. Georgina Macey and Faye Smith had earlier got Buxton off to a good start, but their innings faltered as Ellen McGowan took 4-11.

Leyland v Hayfield: It was another comfortable win for Leyland to maintain their 100 per cent record. Abi Bates' 2-11 was the pick of the attack as they restricted Hayfield to 98 and set up a seven-wicket win.

August 18:

Hawarden Park v Leyland: Leyland's bowling depth was again apparent as they maintained their 100 per cent record. Poppy Smith's 31 was the top score in Hawarden's 82, before Abi Bates' 36 not out led the way as Leyland chased down the runs at five per over.

Upton v Buxton: Upton are still snapping at Leyland's heels but were run close by Buxton here. Sophie Tremble and Alice-Olivia Tremble shared five scalps as Upton lost regular wickets on their way to 178, where the top scorers were Charlie Scudder with 41 and Lily Scudder with 39. Georgina Macey's eye-catching season continued as she blasted 104, but could not quite see this run chase through, and shortly after she was dismissed, the overs ran out with Buxton on 165-9. Ellen McGowan contributed another four wicket return with 4-26 and there was also an important spell of 3-17 from Philippa Dagger. The top two now meet on Bank Holiday Monday, when a Leyland win will all but clinch the title. An Upton win which limits Leyland's losing bonus points could tip the balance in favour of the Wirral club though.

Hayfield v Greenfield: This was a fourth win of the season for Greenfield in a low scoring affair. Megan Russell top scored with 30 as they posted 119, with Hayfield's Emily Bell taking three wickets. Hayfield struggled to break the shackles for long periods in reply and closed on 93 from 35 overs. Caitlin McDonald took 4-17, while Russell and Bethany Garforth conceded just four and eight runs respectively from their seven overs.

Fixtures awaiting possible re-arrangement:

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

Division Three West – August 6:

Chester Boughton Hall 2nd XI v Appleton 2nd XI: Shree Dayama and Ffion Jones produced a quick scoring third wicket stand to take Chester to 107 in 20 overs. Dayama was among those taking important wickets as Appleton finished 19 runs short.

Fixtures awaiting possible re-arrangement:

Appleton 2nd XI v Chester BH 2nd XI – no play due to rain on original date of 1/7
Chester BH 2nd XI v JG Meakin – JG Meakin unable to fulfil fixture on original date of 28/7

Division Three East – August 6:

Didsbury 2nd XI v Buxton 2nd XI: Didsbury overwhelmed Buxton here to record a win that strengthens their position as title favourites. Romilee Cabral and Eleanor Brennan added 83 in 12 overs for Didsbury's first wicket, and although they fell in quick succession, the final total of 115 was certainly a challenging target. Sasha Turnock then continued her fine season with the ball, taking three for five in a Buxton total of 27.

August 18:

Buxton 2nd XI w/o Ashton-on-Mersey & Woodley

Fixtures awaiting possible re-arrangement:

Ashton-on-Mersey & Woodley v Lindow 2nd XI – no play due to rain on original date of 16/7
Didsbury 2nd XI v Stockport Georgians 2nd XI - no play due to rain on most recent date of 15/8

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Division Three Cross-Divisional Matches – August 6:

Nantwich 2nd XI v Stockport Georgians 2nd XI: This was another one to add to the list of large run chases across the league divisions in recent weeks. Nantwich looked to be bossing the game when 57 from Ashlee Prince and 40 from Ellie Pearson took them to 137-1. Despite losing regular wickets, Georgians stayed in the hunt, and ultimately scores in the 30s from Gracie Whittle and Flo Batey took them to a four-wicket win in the 19th over. Nantwich – with only one game left – are still likely to win the Western Division unless Alvanley or JG Meakin can have a near perfect end to the season.

August 14:

JG Meakin Northern Stars v Buxton 2nd XI: Helen Hughes' 22-ball half century and Amy Scerri's 37 got Meakins off to a flying start. Although the run rate reduced later in the innings, the final total of 123 was easily enough to win, with Buxton falling 58 short.

Fixtures awaiting possible re-arrangement:

Appleton 2nd XI v Ashton-on-Mersey & Woodley – AOM & Woodley unable to fulfil fixture on original date of 3/6
Ashton-on-Mersey & Woodley v Chester BH 2nd XI – no play due to rain on original date of 11/7
Alvanley v Lindow 2nd XI – Alvanley unable to fulfil fixture on original date of 21/7

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Division Four West – August 7:

Grappenhall v Kingsley: Kingsley returned to top spot as Steph Woodstock and Jules Bates each made 30 retired in a total of 146. Cheska Hales did the same in the Grappenhall reply, but without the same level of support, and they ended well short on 92.

August 18:

Kingsley v Grappenhall: Kingsley became the first team in the hardball divisions to complete their 2024 fixture programme as they beat Grappenhall. They now need to wait and see if Oakmere seconds can make up a 34-point deficit in their remaining two games. Joanna Leonard and Steph Woodstock both reached 30 retired in an imposing Kingsley score of 143-1. Tarryn Warman was the pick of the bowlers with three for five as Grappenhall made 61 in reply.

Lymm Oughtrington Park v Wistaston Village: Wistaston look set to finish third and Nicki Jarvis' 23 not out led a successful run chase of 88 here, completed inside 15 overs.

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Division Four East – August 13:

Heaton Mersey & Cheadle v Hawk Green - insufficient play for a result due to rain on 13/8 and will not be re-arranged, recorded as Abandoned. Rebecca Edmundson gave Hawk Green a flying start as they reached 48 in six overs, but this was all that was possible on this wet evening.

August 14:

Didsbury 3rd XI v Heaton Mersey & Cheadle: Ellie Pagan took three wickets and Ruby James two as Didsbury managed just 66 in 18 overs. Pagan's 28 then ensured a comfortable seven-wicket win with five overs to spare.

August 18:

Stockport Georgians 3rd XI v Hawk Green: Georgians moved within one win of wrapping up the divisional title as Hawk Green were all out for 28 in a ten-wicket win. Sara Mirza, Francesca Kenny and Lola Bailey all took two wickets.

Lindow 3rd XI v Stockport: The division's other match also saw a ten-wicket winning margin. Leah Kimm took 2-10 in four overs as Lindow struggled to 57-8. Stephanie Almond and Emily Rayner completed the job with the bat.

Didsbury 3rd XI w/o Heaton Mersey & Cheadle

Fixtures awaiting possible re-arrangement:

Lindow 3rd XI v Stockport Georgians 3rd XI – no play due to rain on most recent date of 13/8

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Division Four South East – August 7:

Langley v Lindow Development XI: Langley maintained their title bid by winning a high scoring affair here. Jenny Wallace and Chloe Stevens each reached 30 retired as they posted 124. Rachel Hoyle gave the Lindow reply some impetus, but they could only manage 107.

North East Cheshire v Macclesfield – no play due to unfit ground on original date of 14/7 and will not be re-arranged, recorded as Cancelled.

Fixtures awaiting possible re-arrangement:

North East Cheshire v Langley – no play due to unfit ground on original date of 16/6

North East Cheshire v New Mills & High Peak North – New Mills unable to fulfil fixture on original date of 23/6

North East Cheshire v Buxton 3rd XI – no play due to unfit ground on original date of 10/7

Langley v North East Cheshire - no play due to unfit ground on original date of 17/7

New Mills & High Peak North v Langley – no play due to unfit ground on original date of 14/7

Buxton 3rd XI v Langley – Langley unable to fulfil fixture on last date of 11/8

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We would also like to warn clubs to follow the correct procedure regarding the submission of team sheets. It may seem to be overly formal what is outlined here, but doing it this way really is the best way to avoid any disputes:

- Care needs to be taken to ensure the team sheet is correct
- The sheet needs to be signed by a recognised team official, such as the coach, manager or captain
- If there is a desire to change any of the names on the sheet after the toss, the permission of the opposition captain must be obtained. We have sought advice from Duane Jones in his role as League Umpires & Scorers Officer, and he has said that it would be reasonable to enter the field of play at the fall of a wicket in order to seek this permission

It is also vital that a signed team card is submitted before the toss at all levels of the league, as there can be child welfare concerns if this does not take place, and it can also have an impact should any insurance claim be considered.

The League presentation night will take place on Saturday October 12 at Nantwich Town Football Club.

Permanent transfers:

- Eleanor Beecher – Wistaston Village to Nantwich
- Nicola Deane – Hawarden Park to Nantwich

Player loans:

Peyton Hulme - JG Meakin to Leigh for Division 1 match on August 26 only

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Division 5

Elworth have completed their softball season with ten wins from ten in Division 5 South, matching the 100 per cent record of Romiley in Division 5 East. Old Parkonians and Neston continue to fight it out at the top of Division 5 West, as do Runcorn and Widnes in the Mid-Cheshire division.

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T20 DIVISIONAL COMPETITION

Eastern Division – August 5:

Buxton v Stockport Georgians: The group stages of this competition came to an end with a comprehensive win for Georgians, in this encounter between two sides who lost their opening two matches. The rapidly emerging talent of Georgina Macey made 43 retired as Buxton posted a respectable 119, with Holly Batey's 2-12 the pick of the Georgians attack. The Stockport club then took less than 14 overs to complete an eight-wicket win, getting off to a great start with Gaby McKeever's 40 retired from 27 balls, and finishing the job with 29 from 21 balls from Manvi Rajshetty.

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LEAGUE TABLES

All CWCL League Tables

KNOCKOUT CUPS

Development Knockout Semi-Final – August 8:

Alvanley v Didsbury 2nd XI: Didsbury outplayed Alvanley to reach the final. The fact that batters need to retire at 30 in this competition did nothing to halt the rapid scoring in Didsbury's incredible 171 for no loss in their 20 overs. When one batter retired, another one came in who was just as capable of keeping the scoreboard moving. Ramilee Cabral, Helen Johnson, Abby Nicholson, Zoe Rigley and finally Amy Walkman all scored briskly throughout. Only Isla Entwistle managed to break the shackles in reply, as Alvanley were tied down by some miserly overs from Sasha Turnock, Noreen Latif and Louise Hevican.

NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

Plate National Final – August 18:

Stockport Georgians v Harrow St Mary's: The league will have to wait a little longer for its first winner of a national competition as Georgians' run in the Plate ended at the last hurdle. On the former Women's Test venue of Wormsley, Georgians took an early wicket but then saw second wicket pair Sonali Patel (68) and Bhavika Gajipra (47) add more than 100 on the way to an imposing Harrow total of 151-4. Breanna Craven's 38 not out from 28 balls was the batting highlight for Georgians, but the loss of regular wickets saw them close on 95-7.

REPRESENTATIVE CRICKET

Cheshire Women's League XI v MCC:

The first 12 overs of this match, with MCC scoring just 24 during this time, represented arguably the best start the League XI had made to a bowling innings in the 15-year history of this fixture. Emilia Rossi and Holly Batey impressed with the new ball and first change bowler Rosie Ackerley made the breakthrough in her first over.

Later, the League representative team would post 195, their highest team batting score in the history of this fixture, although the run chases in some of the victories over MCC down the years may have been the best batting displays overall.

In between though, the League's young bowling attack stuck to their task well, but this period was dominated by Claire Taylor, a former England batter and women's cricket legend; and Roshini Prince-Navaratnam, herself a former captain of the League XI. The pair both reached three figures for an MCC side that added 166 in the last 17 overs – Taylor eventually being retired for 104, made from 101 deliveries with 10 fours and a six; and Prince-Navaratnam remaining unbeaten on 105 from just 88 deliveries, reaching her century with her second and third sixes in successive balls.

On the fast-scoring Lindow ground, 243 in 40 overs was not an impossible chase with a significant contribution from any of the top four. They all got starts, but ultimately Grace Michell departed for 41, Heidi Cheadle for 24, Emily Murray for 20 and Kashmira Shinde for 16.

Without a significant partnership, maintaining the stiff asking rate just proved to be too much, although the Cheshire team kept swinging to the end, with Meg Cureton finishing as top scorer with 42 not out from 50 balls, and there was even time for number 11 Carys Lambe to clear the boundary during her entertaining cameo.

Nine of the 11, plus the two additional fielders, were able to experience this fixture for the first time. Lindow CC became the latest in a long line of Cheshire clubs to make an excellent job of hosting the occasion, and we look forward to visiting another lovely Cheshire club ground when the MCC return next year.

Thanks also to the MCC players, many of whom continue to travel long distances to play, and the match officials – umpires Graham Church and Jeff Langham and scorers Rosie Davis and Jeff Langham.

League XI: Heidi Cheadle (Lindow, capt), Emilia Rossi, Emily Murray (both Lindow), Rosie Ackerley, Kashmira Shinde, Emily Wilkins (all Didsbury), Grace Michell (Nantwich), Carys Lambe, Meg Cureton, Holly Mayers (all Chester BH), Holly Batey (Stockport Georgians). Additional fielders – Holly Humphreys (Lymm Oughtrington Park) & Isabelle Hevican (Didsbury).