CHESHIRE WOMEN'S LEAGUE

With most issues now settled, this is the latest list of winners and runners-up across the CWCL competitions. Persistent rain foiled the prospect of a winner takes all decider in Division 1 between Didsbury and Leigh today.

	WINNERS	RUNNERS UP
Division 1	Leigh	
Division 2	Leyland	Upton
Division 3 West	Nantwich 2 nd XI	
Division 3 East	Didsbury 2 nd XI	Stockport Georgians 2 nd XI
Division 4 West	Oakmere 2 nd XI	Kingsley
Division 4 East	Stockport Georgians 3 rd XI	Stockport
Division 4 South East	Macclesfield	
Division 5 West		
Division 5 East	Romiley	Macclesfield 2 nd XI
Division 5 Mid Cheshire	Runcorn	
Division 5 South	Elworth	Christleton
T20 Divisional Competition	Nantwich Vipers	Lindow
Senior Knockout Cup	Didsbury Swordettes	Lindow
Development Knockout Cup	Didsbury 2 nd XI	Chester Boughton Hall 2 nd XI
Softball Knockout Cup		

Division One – September 8:

<u>Leigh v Oakmere</u>: The three title chasing clubs all recorded wins eventually, but Leigh were left wondering whether the weather would allow them to do so for long periods. Play was suspended at the first innings drinks break with Oakmere on 70-2, before play finally resumed in the nick of time for a result to be possible. Chasing 88 in 23 overs, Leigh stormed to their target in 10.5 overs, with Adelaide Mather smashing 65 not out from 38 balls, with 12 fours and a six.

<u>Didsbury v Appleton</u>: Didsbury were in dominant form to set up a potential title decider against Leigh on the following Sunday. Emily Wilkins made 70 and Kashmira Shinde 51 in their total of 219, and Appleton could only reply with 66.

Stockport Georgians v Nantwich: Third-placed Nantwich won well here, but their remaining title hopes effectively disappeared with the wins for Didsbury and Leigh. After Georgians' openers Skye Thomas and Lucy Neill made 41 and 23 respectively, the innings fell away to 87 all out, with Bethan Hughes taking 4-22 and Bethan Robinson 3-23. After an uncertain start to the reply, with Gaby McKeever and Tess Bailey's bowling causing problems, 38 not from Morganne Prince guided Nantwich to a six-wicket win.

Lindow v Chester Boughton Hall – cancelled due to rain

September 15:

Didsbury v Leigh - cancelled due to rain

In 2012, Appleton beat Oakmere on the final day to win their third title in succession. It was all set up for 2024 to deliver the first winner takes all title showdown in Division 1 since then, but all hope of play was abandoned here one hour after the scheduled start. It means that Leigh regain the title they last won in 2022, and it is still the case that only one club (Oakmere) has retained the Championship in the last 12 seasons. It was rotten luck on Didsbury today not to get the chance to overhaul their rivals, but on the other hand, they have lost three league matches, which is more than any team that has landed the title.

This was the third time that a match between the top three was cancelled this year, out of only five 'no result' matches in total (two final Division 1 fixtures will be played next Sunday). The other results between the top three this year were as follows:

May 12: Leigh beat Didsbury by 74 runs May 27: Didsbury v Nantwich – cancelled June 16: Leigh v Nantwich – cancelled July 28: Didsbury beat Nantwich by 54 runs August 26: Nantwich beat Leigh by six runs

We'll never know how the league table might have looked if all of these had taken place. As it was, the top three played each other once, each winning one and losing one of these. Both Didsbury and Leigh also lost one match to fourth-placed Lindow, with Didsbury and Nantwich also both losing to fifth-placed Chester Boughton Hall.

Division Two - September 8:

<u>Hayfield v Hawarden Park</u>: It was a very tense afternoon in the High Peak as Hayfield edged a very low scoring contest to go above Hawarden and ensure they were safe from relegation. It looked so much easier for the hosts when they bowled out their visitors for 60 (Charlotte Peacock 3-14). Despite chasing less than two per over, the pressure soon began to tell, not least because three wickets fell to run outs, which were all direct hit dismissals from Hawarden's Emma Rixham. From 46-7, it was Bella Kassim and Bo Singleton who finally got the Derbyshire club over the line. Buxton now stand bottom of the table but can condemn Hawarden to the wooden spoon (and possible relegation) by taking a win or tie, or a good haul of points from a no result, when they play Leyland next Sunday.

Division Three West

Appleton 2^{nd} XI v Chester BH 2^{nd} XI – no play due to rain on original date of 1/7 and never rearranged, recorded as Cancelled

Chester BH 2nd XI v JG Meakin – JG Meakin unable to fulfil fixture on original date of 28/7 and never re-arranged, recorded as a conceded match

Division Three East

Ashton-on-Mersey & Woodley v Lindow 2nd XI – no play due to rain on original date of 16/7 and never re-arranged, recorded as Cancelled.

Division Three Cross-Divisional Matches – September 8:

<u>Chester Boughton Hall 2nd XI v Lindow 2nd XI:</u> Both teams enjoyed some success in the 25 overs that were possible before play was abandoned. Lindow scored 136, largely due to openers Louise Long (57) and Nikki Hill (35), while the nine Chester bowlers took nine wickets between them – two each for Olivia Haywood and Elen Weigh.

September 15:

JG Meakin v Ashton-on-Mersey & Woodley, Alvanley v Lindow 2nd XI, Nantwich 2nd XI v Didsbury 2nd XI, Buxton 2nd XI v Appleton 2nd XI – all cancelled due to rain

The fixture between Nantwich and Didsbury would have been something of a victory lap for both sides. Didsbury had already clinched Division 3 East and Nantwich would have needed only two points from the fixture to wrap up the Division 3 West title.

Ashton-on-Mersey & Woodley v Chester BH 2nd XI – no play due to rain on original date of 11/7 and will not be re-arranged, recorded as Cancelled

Division Four West - September 2:

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<u>Toft v Oakmere 2nd XI</u>: Oakmere wasted little time in completing the win that took them within nine points of the title. Toft were kept down to 44 in 15 overs, with some impressively economical figures from all eight bowlers used – Abi Lamidey returning the best analysis with 2-3 in two overs. Lamidey then made 22 not out from 26 balls as a nine-wicket win was completed inside eight overs

September 12:

<u>Lymm Oughtrington Park v Oakmere 2nd XI:</u> The weather did not allow Oakmere to seal the title with a win, but by scoring 30 in seven overs here, they moved ahead of Kingsley to claim first place in the final standings.

Division Four East - September 3:

<u>Lindow 3rd XI v Stockport Georgians 3rd XI</u>: Title winners Georgians signed off by completing their campaign with an 11 runs per over run chase. Suzy Ryder's 24 helped Lindow to 72 in 15 overs, but Georgians replied with 76-1 in seven overs, where Esme Halford made an unbeaten 26 from 13 balls.

<u>Hawk Green v Stockport</u>: Stockport moved back into second place with a comfortable eightwicket win. Annie Shaw's two wickets pegged back a rapid start from Hawk Green, who closed on 79 from 15 overs. Sarah Vickers' 31 from 25 balls completed the chase inside 11 overs.

September 8:

Stockport v Didsbury 3rd XI: Stockport made sure of second place in the division with a tense win here. Didsbury were two down in the first three balls of the match, bowled by Katie Billings, but recovered to 93-6 – Joely Hopper's 20 not out the top score. Billings' 30 retired then rescued Stockport from 10-3, and despite Hopper's 2-7 in four overs, the hosts won from the final ball when their number 10 Evie Brown struck her first ball for four.

Division Four South East – September 1:

New Mills & High Peak North v Buxton 3rd XI: A comfortable win for New Mills as they maintained their interest at the top end of the table. Nikki Thorn's 3-7 was the crucial bowling contribution as Buxton were restricted to 62 in their 20 overs.

September 5:

<u>Lindow Development XI v North East Cheshire</u>: North East's innings fell away to 83-4 once Rebecca Scholes had retired following her knock of 31. Hannah Kirk's 23 not out was the top score as Lindow won by seven wickets with an over to spare.

September 8:

Macclesfield v New Mills & High Peak North – no play due to rain and will not be re-arranged, recorded as Cancelled.

This could have been a potential title decider, but the washout means that the trophy will be held by Macclesfield for the next 12 months.

September 15:

New Mills & High Peak North w/o Langley

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 Buxton 3rd XI – no play due to unfit ground on original date of 10/7 Buxton 3rd XI v Langley – Langley unable to fulfil fixture on last date of 11/8 Langley v North East Cheshire - no play due to unfit ground on original date of 17/7

Matches can be re-arranged by mutual consent for dates up to and including September 22. Any match not played by this date will be recorded as Cancelled where ground or weather conditions prevented play on the most recent arranged date. Other matches will be recorded as a concession by the team that was unable to fulfil the fixture on the most recent arranged date.

Player loans:

Amelia Buckley – Greenfield to Leigh for league match on September 8.

The next meeting of the full League Committee will take place remotely on Wednesday September 25 at 1930. Club main representatives should have received the Zoom link.

A reminder that the young player guidelines of the Cheshire Cricket Board do not allow anyone to appear in senior cricket who had not started school year 8 at the start of the season. They key date here is the 'start of the season', so anyone who has moved into school year 8 this month should not be selected for the remaining matches.

The CWCL 2024 Awards Evening is to be held at Nantwich Town Football Club (Atherton & Associates Suite), The Swansway Stadium, Waterlode, Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 5BS on Saturday October 12 at 1930.

We again continue with the informal format used in recent years of a buffet meal and disco, following the presentation of the team and individual trophies.

The price per person is once again frozen at £20.

Award winning clubs will be offered priority tickets, limited in the first instance to a maximum of 10 per club. However please specify the total number of tickets your club requires to aid with overall ticket allocation.

Responses are requested to League Secretary Alan Rogers, via club main representatives, by September 24 please.

Payment details will be sent out to clubs when the number of tickets allocated is confirmed to clubs.

We will be asking for one payment for the total number of tickets no later than Monday October 7. Any club that is still in possession of a 2023 team trophy is responsible for ensuring that this gets to the event, to be presented to this year's winners.

Seren Smale became the latest player to have featured in the league and to have played full international cricket, when she made her England debut against Ireland yesterday, scoring 25 and claiming two wicketkeeping dismissals. Although this was largely a second-string England side, not featuring any of the players selected for the T20 World Cup, the matches in Ireland this month still enjoy full international status, so we can add Seren – who played for Chester Boughton Hall and Nantwich – to the growing list.

England – Laura MacLeod, Sophie Ecclestone, Sarah Collyer, Lauren Griffiths, Enid Bakewell, Helen Wardlaw, Seren Smale
Scotland – Ruth Willis, Nadia Wheeler, Liv Bell
Bangladesh – Mina Khatun
France – Amy Seddon
Guernsey – Rosie Davis
Qatar – Ameesha Jabir

Stockport Georgians' Liv Bell is in the Scotland squad for next month's T20 World Cup, putting her in line to become the first player to appear in both the CWCL and a major tournament final in the same year.

The Cheshire County League (the senior men's league in Cheshire) are compiling their 50th anniversary book. This will include a list of players from the league who have also played full international cricket. I have passed a list to the author of several people from women's cricket who meet these criteria, but please feel free to let me know of any names you might be aware of.

Division 5

Runcorn have edged out local rivals Widnes to clinch the title in Division 5 Mid Cheshire. They have also become the first club to submit their application to join Division 4 for next year.

Any club wishing to apply for promotion from Division 5 to Division 4, i.e. to play senior hardball cricket for the first time, will need to complete the detailed application form. These clubs will then need to attend the AGM in November to answer any questions that league officers or club representatives may have.

LEAGUE TABLES

All CWCL League Tables

KNOCKOUT CUPS

Softball Knockout

Old Parkonians and Neston are through to the final of this competition.

SENIOR WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Cheshire continues to offer its wide range of <u>umpiring and scoring courses</u>.