



THE 2025 WEEK 1 REVIEW

Welcome to the first of the 2025 series of newsletters reviewing all the weekend action in men's senior cricket across the CCCL, and providing an at-a-glance overview of the league tables.

Everyone is hopeful for a much drier and brighter season than 12 months previous, which began and ended on a depressingly soggy note, and certainly the build-up was much more encouraging weather-wise, with all holding fair for an action-packed (if chilly) first day. You will by now be aware that it is a year of celebration, 50 years of

league cricket being marked by a special anniversary match in June, and various events at clubs across the county throughout the season.

As ever during the close season, amongst all the preparations, league regulations were debated and voted on, with some notable changes to long established rules catching the attention. In summary these are as follows:

PLAY STARTING OR RECOMMENCING IN RAIN

Upto 2025, the CCCL regulations stated that play could not start if it was raining, no matter how light or fine, and no matter if it was the sort of rain that play could continue in if the match was underway. This has now been changed through the voting process, so that umpires (who remain the sole arbiters of fitness of conditions for play) have permission to start in light or fine rain where they agree that there is no exceptional risk to player safety.

Editors' comment: rain is always a difficulty for umpires. The previous regulation caused difficulties, and the new regulation will also! But clubs have requested the change so we will see how rain-affected games fare.

DRINKS BREAKS

Drinks breaks must now be conducted on the field of play, with any player wishing to leave the field for a genuine reason needing the umpires' permission to do so. Law 24:4 (player returning without permission) could be enacted if permission has not been sought and given to leave the field.

Editors' comment: I was pleased to see clubs wanted this, to avoid a mass exodus and subsequent delay in restarting when drinks are called.

CAPTAINS MARKS

These markings must now be submitted within 72 hours via the 'Who's the Umpire?' website.

Editors' comment: the main source of fines is for late marks submission, hopefully this will make things easier.

OVER RATE PENALTIES

Where a side is behind on its over rate at the cut-off time, only two fielders will be permitted outside the 30 yard circle from that cut-off time to the end of the innings, however many overs remain.

Editors' comment: an effective further incentive for teams to keep the game moving!

SCORERS

1st XIs will be fined £40 for the first three occasions when they do not provide a competent scorer for the entirety of a match. On the fourth and subsequent occasions the offending club will be docked two points.

Editors' comment: a long-overdue regulation. Scorers must be a treasured resource for all clubs.

WIDE BALL

The most difficult regulation in 2024 was the way wide deliveries were to be interpreted, with a notable amount of confusion prevailing (both amongst umpires and players!) In 2025 the rule has been simplified as much as possible to reflect the wishes of the clubs. Any ball passing the leg-side of the striker and passing outside the leg stump shall be called wide, irrespective of any movement by the striker. Off-side wides will be called with reference to the 17" markings and the position of the batter. Switch-hits or reverse sweeps will see the 17" line on either side of the stumps used as the reference point for wides.

Editors' comment: hopefully wides will now get consistent treatment.



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It was a dramatic first day which marked the start of an amazing 50th year of the Cheshire County Cricket League - high scores, a tie, an extras-fest, and four centurions on a day for batsmen.

A magnificent game at Filkins Lane took top billing. Timperley bravely inserted hosts Chester BH, and Alex Money wasted no time stamping his authority on proceedings with a superb 135 (129 bs), other fluent contributions helping CBH stack up 322-6. Timpers were taking a standing count at 10-3 in reply but a superlative stand of 226 for the 4th wkt between Tim Reynolds (116 off 90 bs) and Fred Vaughan-Hawkins (109 off 105 bs) put their side in the box seat. However, both fell within seven balls of each other, wickets then continuing to fall as Timpers kept up their pursuit. With 7 needed off the last, Money (4-52) had the final word when John Fowler was stumped, match tied. There was an equally unpredictably tense finish at Didsbury, where the hosts had Rob Sehmi (102*) and Steve Green (57) largely to thank for their 309-6. Newcomers Lindow looked pretty much finished at 169-7 but new overseas Jamieson Hedges had other ideas, the 19 yr old following up a sharp bowling spell with an extraordinary assault on the bewildered Dids attack, smashing 62 off 28 balls at one stage as the last three Lindow wickets added 124, Jamieson stranded on 95* (62 bs) when the last wkt finally fell. Dids were the hugely relieved winners by 16 runs after shipping 57 extras.

Champions Nantwich got off to the worst possible start as Brooklands marked their return to the Prem with a comfortable 5 wkt win at Whitehouse Lane (consecutive league victories there for Brooklands, by the way). Chasing 218, an opening stand of 98 set the visitors on their way nicely, skipper Kevin Carroll adding typical fireworks with 41 off 17 bs as Brooklands won with 13 overs in hand. Last year's runners-up Hyde also made a poor start as they were quickly 11-3 and then 148-7 hosting Widnes, but some Andrew Jackson specials (63 off 43) got them up to 234-8, Widnes soon 40-4 in reply and never recovering as Hyde won by 108 runs. A good game and a good chase of 241 by hosts Oxton saw them record a 6 wkt win over Bowdon, who were indebted to another fine knock by keeper John Sanders (90 off 80) and 50* from Joe Chapple after losing new faces Keshana Fonseka and Subhaan Mahmood for 0 and 1 respectively. Luke Filer (81) led the way for Oxton, an opening stand of 123 with Johnny Crick allowing skipper Henry Dobson (61 off 60) to settle matters. Alderley Edge welcomed faces new and previously known into their fold, Pat Ashling's 86 leading the way as Alfie Usher (61* off 66) added a late dash, AE 301-5. In reply David Hurst clattered 8 sixes in his stylish 89 but from 136-2 Neston fell away badly, all out 187 with the nagging memory of last season's struggles haunting them, it would seem.



2025 WEEK 1 REVIEW cont.

In **Div 1** Toft laid down a marker as they made 300-9 at Grappenhall in an early meeting of the two relegated sides, Henry Hughes' superb 125* the cornerstone. William Fell made a dazzling 100 (94 bs) out of 135 added while he batted, but Zak Judge (19) was the only other Grappers batter in double figures as Toft cruised to a 144 run win. Mixed fortunes for the two promoted sides, Maritime showing real character to squeak a 1 wkt win at Cheadle, who made a respectable 197-9 on a tricky surface at Kingsway, Maritime slipping to 100-7 before Mikkel Akeem Joseph (76*) coaxed the needed support out of the tail. Port Sunlight introduced new recruit Jordan Collier at Davenham, Collier taking 4-18 as the hosts grafted to 156. A determined bowling effort then saw PS fall just short, 144 all out. Bramhall's Greg Dixon (78) picked up where he left off last season, 76* from debutant Charlie Smith helping their side to 224-7 and an eventual 21 run win in a fine game with Marple, for whom Aussie Keagan Lynch (83) and returning veteran Elliott Young (53) made a real game of it. Another veteran, Tyrone Lawrence, made an excellent 102* to help Sale record a 6 wkt victory over Georgians, who used nine bowlers, while not so far away at Urmston, Macclesfield's Alex Thompson was head and shoulders in every sense, a merciless 150 (15x4, 8x6) putting pressure on the hosts' supply of spare balls as Macc reached 285-7, 75 more than Urmston could manage despite another veteran, Craig Grindley, making a fine 74.

Oulton Park took their poor form of last season straight into **Div 2**, as they slumped to 18-4 after just 5 overs at NE Cheshire. OP battled hard to post 153, but the hosts eased to an alarm-free 7 wkt win after a stand of 120 for the second wkt between Will Westerby (60) and Jake Reynolds (57). Another side faring badly after a lengthy trip were Romiley, 85-6 at Christleton, but the mercurial Brad Snape produced a crackerjack batting at eight, 7x6 and 7x4 in his 79 enabling skipper Alex Hooton (68*) and no.10 Mark Flattley (38) to post a remarkable 276-9, Christleton all out 193. Promoted Upton shrugged off being 7-2 to reach 255-5 at Haslington, who fell in a heap for 106 in reply, while there were nervy wins for Ashton OM and Alvanley over Stockport and Cheadle Hulme respectively, and a more comfortable five wkt triumph for Ashley over Bollington, the prolific Ammad Mushtaq making 84*.

Div 3 saw the two returning sides enjoy happy days, Warrington's Aamir Ali in particular, as he made a terrific 104 before ripping through Hale Barns' flimsy defences with 5-16, HB going from 110-2 to 144 all out, Warrington sailing home by 113 runs. Middlewich didn't have things anything like as straightforward at Haddon Field, but the hosts got over the line after a gritty 8th wkt stand of 46* to reach their 127 target and claim a valuable 3 wkt win over Hawk Green. Heaton Mersey welcomed former Mobberley man Osman Butt into their ranks, Butt making 107* as HM powered to 293-7 and a massive 158 run win over Winnington Park. Butt's former team got off on the right foot as visitors Run-corn only lasted 30 overs in making 152, Mobb grabbing a 3 wkt win, while Tattenhall got from 116-6 to 217 against Over Peover, who came quietly for just 111. Opening day nerves got the better of Oakmere, who collapsed from 94-2 to 120 all out, handing Barrow a 24 run win.

1ST XI PREM		
TEAM	PTS	MONTH
ALDERLEY EDGE	20	20
BROOKLANDS	20	20
DIDSBURY	20	20
HYDE	20	20
OXTON	20	20
CHESTER BH	16	16
TIMPERLEY	14	14
LINDOW	6	6
NANTWICH	5	5
WIDNES	4	4
BOWDON	4	4
NESTON	4	4

1ST XI DIV 1		
TEAM	PTS	MONTH
MARITIME	20	20
BRAMHALL	20	20
MACCLESFIELD	20	20
SALE	20	20
DAVENHAM	20	20
TOFT	20	20
CHEADLE	6	6
MARPLE	6	6
URMSTON	6	6
GRAPPENHALL	6	6
PORT SUNLIGHT	5	5
S.GEORGIANS	4	4

1ST XI DIV 2		
TEAM	PTS	MONTH
UPTON	20	20
ALVANLEY	20	20
N.E. CHESHIRE	20	20
ASHLEY	20	20
ASHTON OM	20	20
ROMILEY	20	20
CHRISTLETON	6	6
STOCKPORT	5	5
CHEADLE HULME	4	4
BOLLINGTON	4	4
HASLINGTON	3	3
OULTON PARK	3	3

1ST XI DIV 3		
TEAM	PTS	MONTH
MIDDLEWICH	20	20
HEATON MERSEY	20	20
WARRINGTON	20	20
TATTENHALL	20	20
BARROW	20	20
MOBBERLEY	20	20
RUNCORN	5	5
OAKMERE	5	5
HALE BARNES	5	5
OVER PEOVER	5	5
HAWK GREEN	4	4
WINNINGTON PARK	4	4

2ND XI PREM	
TEAM	PTS
NANTWICH	20
TIMPERLEY	20
DIDSBURY	20
CHESTER BH	20
OXTON	20
WIDNES	20
CHEADLE	7
NESTON	5
HYDE	5
S.GEORGIANS	4
TOFT	4
BROOKLANDS	3

2ND XI DIV 1	
TOP & BOTTOM	PTS
1. UPTON	20
2. MACCLESFIELD	20
3. BRAMHALL	20
11. H.MERSEY	1
12. GRAPPENHALL	0



2ND XI DIV 2	
TOP & BOTTOM	PTS
1. URMSTON	20
2. STOCKPORT	20
3. OAKMERE	20
11. UPTON 3	2
12. AOM	1

2ND XI DIV 3	
TOP & BOTTOM	PTS
1. W.PARK	20
2. ASHLEY	20
3. CHRISTLETON	20
11. TATTENHALL	4
12. HALE BARNES	3

Sunday 3rd XI tables will appear when the fixture schedule commences in early May.

Eight mini-groups of four teams have started their season contesting quarter-final berths for the 3rd XI T20 competition, with the highlights of the first round of matches following the 2nd XI round up.



WEEK 12 2ND & 3RD XI CRICKET

2ND XI CRICKET: Champions Didsbury found themselves 71-7 chasing just 90 on a spin-friendly surface at Brooklands but Ed Catt, who earlier took 5-19, held his nerve with the bat and helped steer his side to a 3 wkt win. Chester BH's Andrew McFarlane hammered 120 (141 bs) as his side were straight to business, piling up 244 at Neston, who folded for just 131. Timperley's 253-9 was the highest score of the day in the Prem, helping them to a 16 run win over valiant Cheadle, while Oxton, chasing 192 at Toft, recovered from 99-5 to claim a 4 wkt win. Widnes, after being reduced to 11-3 by visitors Hyde, made 201, enough for a comfy 85 run win, and Nantwich enjoyed a happy first trip of 2025, winning by 4 wkts at Georgians, Joe Bolton taking 5-48 for the Dabbers.

In **Div 1** Heaton Mersey's 62 all out at Lindow represented a reasonable recovery after being 28-8, but the hosts powered to an inevitable win in short order. However, Bowdon finished before them, after a red-faced Grappenhall departed South Downs Lane heads bowed having been routed for just 35, Haydn George 6-16.

In **Div 2** Jonathan Steele blazed 144 for Alderley Edge en-route to a massive 168 run win over Upton 3s. Warrington made it a good day all round for his club after an impressive 6 wkt win at Oulton Park, while AOM went from 68-2 to 83 all out at Port Sunlight, who eased to a 7 wkt win. Having been 139-7, hosts Romiley rallied to reach 240 against Oakmere, but the visitors, led by James Lewis's superb 86*, enjoyed an impressive 6 wkt win.

In **Div 3** Matt Carr's 107 brought some cheer to Winnington Park, Timperley 3s giving their 266 target a real tilt but falling just 33 runs short. Isaac Bradley made 124 for Oxton 3s but opponents Ashley had too many runs in the bank.

Sunday 3rd XI T20 News In Group 2, cup holders Didsbury recovered from a run-out off the first ball of the match to comfortably beat Cheadle and set up a potentially decisive encounter next week with Woodley, who beat Timperley 6s.

Group 5 saw 2023 winners Sale make short work of Runcorn 3s, while the other group game saw a comfortable win for last years runners-up Didsbury 4 over Trafford Metrovicks 4s. A bad day all round for TMs, their 3s getting marmalised in group 7 at Stockport Georgians, Saj Hussain smashing 108 off 46 bs as the hosts piled up 200-4, while Macc beat Romiley by 51 runs in the other fixture.

Group 6 saw wins for Timperley 5s & Hyde, while Iain Wright's 84* (52 bs) helped Grappenhall beat Urmston by 44 runs in Group 3, the other fixture in that group seeing Davenham beat Elworth.

In group 4, Dan Corder & Will McCue put on 100 for the 1st as Bramhall beat AOM, while Marple 5s won a close local derby against BSM by 13 runs. Across in group 8, Bowdon beat Middlewich and Toft 3s picked up an easy two points after Nantwich disappointingly conceded their fixture. Ashley 4s easily beat Lindow 4s in the only group 1 match played.



1ST XI T20 CRICKET IN 2025

Holders: OXTON

Competition Secretary David Gane writes: In 2025 the T20 1st XI Cup will have two Mini Group stages to avoid mismatches as far as possible and provide extra games and opportunities for Division 2 and 3 clubs.

The first set of qualifying stage Mini Groups - MG1 - will be played by teams in Divisions 2 and 3 with six groups of four teams. The winners and two best runners-up qualify for the second stage of Mini Groups - MG2. Runners-up will be determined firstly by points and, if equal, Net Run Rate.

In addition there will also be a last 8 K/O Round for the eight qualifiers, with the winners going forward to a Div2/3 Finals Day. MG1 last 8 K/O stage and MG1 Finals Day dates will be published imminently.

MG2 will be played by teams in the Premier Division and Division 1 plus the 8 qualifiers from MG1. There will be eight groups with four teams per group, and three fixtures per team. The group winners and runners-up qualify for the last 16 K/O stage.

Fixture Dates

MG1: Thursdays: May 15, May 22, May 29. All MG1 fixtures are scheduled on Play Cricket.

MG2: Thursdays: June 5, June 12 & Tuesday June 17* (reserve date Thurs June 26)

**Note change of day to accommodate CCCL v MCC 50th Anniversary fixture @ Toft CC*

All teams qualifying from MG1 will be drawn AWAY on the first match day of their MG2 fixture schedule.

Last 16 K/O: Thursday July 3

Q/F: Thursday July 10

Finals Day: Sunday July 20 (Reserve date: July 27)

THE CHESHIRE CUP FIRST ROUND DRAW is on Play-Cricket (Cheshire Cup Competitions).
Matches are scheduled for Sunday May 4th.



Geoff Wellstead's lovingly researched and superbly chronicled account of the first 50 years of the CCCL is now available and a must-read for anyone who is involved in Cheshire cricket. Clubs have a limited number of copies available at around £10, or you can request a copy from Geoff himself (geoffwellstead@hotmail.com) for £15 incl p&p. However you obtain a copy, you will be glad you did!



Following the success of 'Paint Cricket Pink' in 2024, which raised some £17,000, the CCCL has nominated Prostate Cancer UK as its official supported charity in 2025. News of events and initiatives to raise money for PCUK will be circulated throughout the season.



CCCL XI v MCC

An anniversary match to mark 50 years of the CCCL

THURSDAY 19th JUNE

11.30 AM, TOFT CRICKET CLUB

Followed by a 3-course dinner at 19:30 with league figures past and present,
and special guest speaker ROBERT CROFT (ex-Glamorgan & England).

Dinner tickets - £45 via Cheshire Cricket Board website ('News' section)

More information from davidjgane@btinternet.com