

Division One – April 21

April 27:

Nantwich 157-3, Leigh 161-9

Oakmere 147-9, Didsbury 144

Stockport Georgians 106, Chester Boughton Hall 107-9

Lindow 181-9, Leyland 145-8

Division Two – April 27:

Upton 90, Hayfield 60

Despite not having a large total to defend, Upton began with an eye-catching win. Lily Scudder's 24 was the highest individual score on either side, and she duly contributed four wickets in the reply, but Alexa Harrison's four wickets for four runs in 6.3 overs is what really stands out from the Wirral side's bowling analysis

Division Three East – April 27:

[Heaton Mersey & Cheadle 146, Buxton 140-8](#)

Promoted Heaton Mersey & Cheadle marked their return to the third tier with a narrow win over Buxton, who were playing division two cricket last year. Sophie Tremble took 5-6 for Buxton, but the target set by the Stockport team was just too daunting. Jess Isaacs' 37 led the Heaton Mersey & Cheadle recovery after an uncertain start. Caitlin McClurg was unbeaten on 59 in the reply but didn't quite get the support needed to see her side over the line.

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Division Four West – April 27

[Runcorn 138-1, Grappenhall 80-9](#)

Runcorn made a great start to mark their promotion to the hardball divisions. Steph Woodstock was the standout performer, reaching the retirement score of 30 in 17 balls and then taking three for six.

Wistaston Village w/o Oxton

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Division Four East

Fixtures awaiting possible re-arrangement:

Stockport v Toft – Toft unable to fulfil fixture on original date of 27/4

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Overseas player registrations:

Holly Topp (Lindow), New Zealand, UK passport
Lucy Page (Leigh), Australia, Youth Mobility Visa
Grace Nuttall (Leyland), Australia, UK passport

Overseas exempt player registrations:

Heidi Cheadle (Lindow), Australia

Dual player registrations:

Lily Scudder (Upton) will play in the senior T20 competitions for Chester Boughton Hall Deemons
Charlie Scudder (Upton) will play in the senior T20 competitions for Chester Boughton Hall Deemons

Player loans:

Lily Scudder (Upton) to Chester Boughton Hall for maximum three league matches, commencing from the start of the season
Charlie Scudder (Upton) to Chester Boughton Hall for maximum three league matches, commencing from the start of the season
Amelia Buckley (Greenfield) to Leigh for league match on April 27 only

Fast Bowling Directive

The ECB restrictions on the number of overs that can be bowled by a fast bowler have been revised. A bowler is defined as 'fast' if it would be expected that an average wicketkeeper would normally stand back to their bowling.

Under 15 bowlers can only bowl five overs in a spell, with those in the Under 13 age group also restricted 10 overs in a day. Under 14 and Under 15 bowlers can bowl 12 overs in a day – remember that these are 'per day' restrictions and not 'per match', which may be relevant if a player features in two matches on the same day.

Under 16 and Under 17 bowlers can bowl six overs in a spell and 15 in a day.

Under 18 and Under 19 bowlers can bowl six overs in a spell and 18 in a day.

In any seven-day period, it is recommended there should be a maximum of four bowling days with only one instance of bowling on consecutive days.

The target maximum overs per week is 20 for an Under 13, 24 for an Under 15, 26 for an Under 17 and 28 for an Under 19.

Please note that these restrictions are now based on the player's age on the day of the match and not on the age group they were in at the start of the season.

Transgender Policy

The ECB are reviewing the UK Supreme Court ruling with external legal support to understand any implications on its regulations and will provide further details as soon as possible. The existing Player Gender Eligibility Regulations (previously Transgender Policy) and Disparity Regulations on the ECB website still apply until further notice.

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EXTERNAL COMPETITIONS

Thunder Cup Group 1 – April 20:

[Lindow 258-9, Leyland 181](#)

Tilly Kesteven's 66 was the top score in Lindow's formidable 50-over total, supported by Holly Topp's 41 and Heidi Cheadle's 38. Leyland failed to get any batter to 30, which ultimately proved to be the difference.

[Sefton Park 209-9, Leigh 210-4](#)

Leigh looked to have a run chase of substance here, despite Kasey Bentham's return of 3-4 in six overs. Lucy Page's eye-catching 72 in 38 balls, plus 56 from Olivia Brinsden, however, ensured they got home in just 29.1 overs.

Thunder Cup Group 2 – April 20:

[Didsbury 107, Stockport Georgians 111-3](#)

Didsbury were all out in just 22 of the 50 available overs here, with Amelie Batey the pick of the Georgians attack with 4-29. Tess Bailey's 46 led a comfortable run chase.

REPRESENTATIVE CRICKET

Metro Bank Women's One Day Cup Tier 3 Division 1 – April 20:

[Wiltshire 189, Cheshire 175](#)

Making their return to competitive action after a six-year hiatus, Cheshire went down to an agonising 14-run defeat in Wiltshire, in what was very much a tale of two last wicket partnerships.

New captain Roshini Prince-Navaratnam was one of three selections who had previously played for Cheshire, alongside Ellie Mason and Meg Cureton. They were joined by nine debutantes in Grace Michell, Holly Mayers, Sophie Heaton, Emily Murray, Emily Wilkins, Hannah Marshall, Amy Seddon, Emily Page and Rebecca Othick.

Page conceded just nine in her first seven overs as Cheshire's attack made a miserly start. Regular wickets continued to fall, before the crucial last wicket stand of 44 between Niamh Mansel (34*) and Lauren Adams (22*).

Cheshire also struggled to provide a meaningful partnership in their top or middle order. Mayers Made the top score of 37, but this left the last pair of Seddon and Page with the task of adding 48 to see their side home. They duly added 33 of these, but it wasn't to be.

For the record, this is Cheshire's highest ever stand for the final wicket, breaking the previous mark of 25 (Kate Harvey and Kate Skelhorn versus Yorkshire in 2009).

April 27:

[Cheshire 236-5, Cambridgeshire 170](#)

Seven days later came the first Cheshire win of the new era.

Cheshire's solid total was built around 80 from 89 balls from Roshini Prince-Navaratnam and 73 from Ellie Mason, with Holly Mayers reaching the 30s for the second week.

In contrast, no one from the East Anglian county passed 31 in reply, and more quality bowling from Emily Page, Mason and Hannah Marshall completed the job.

OTHER NEWS

The Cheshire County League – the top-ranked men's league in the county – has published its 50th anniversary book, containing a wealth of information about the history of the league since its foundation in 1975. It includes honourable mentions for women players in Cheshire where they have been involved in significant men's league milestones, e.g. Sarah Collyer's international appearances, Lauren Griffiths' appearances for Chester BH alongside other members of her family, Sophie Ecclestone's five-wicket hauls for Alvanley men's 1st XI and Vicky Downes' hat-trick for Bredbury St Mark's. A number of women who have played in this league and who have represented their country are also named in the Internationals section. Order your copy [here](#).

SENIOR WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Cheshire continues to offer its wide range of umpiring and scoring courses. These include a course on May 6 and 8, at Lindow CC, which will be a special women-only course. This interactive course comprises both 'classroom' work and practical experience of laws, decision making and umpiring in general. The course is designed for those wishing to umpire at any level, and it is ideally timed to apply your increased expertise in the new season for your own team or to help any other team in your club. And if you want to use this to start your journey into umpiring at a national or international level, that's possible too!