CHESHIRE WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Division One - May 25:

Lindow 255-5 (40), Stockport Georgians 134-6 (20)

In the equivalent fixture last year, Lindow made 240 and fell one run short, making it the highest losing score in league history. Although the second innings was never completed after several rain interruptions, that mark was passed today, with the Wilmslow club ending up on the losing side despite scoring 15 more than last time. Heidi Cheadle and Faye Smith took their opening stand to 191 before Smith fell for 70, but Cheadle carried on until three overs before the end, completing her fine knock of 147 from 114 balls, with 22 fours and three sixes. Georgians were reduced to 24-3 and also lost three quick wickets just before the players left the field for the final time, but in between, Lucy Neill (55 from 36 balls) and Gaby McKeever (40* from 39) provided more fine batting entertainment to ensure their side were victors on run rate when the axe finally fell on the day's proceedings. It all added up to an excellent match between two clubs giving an excellent account of themselves, despite the absence of six Lindow and three Georgians players who were all involved in Cheshire Under 18's excellent win away to Nottinghamshire.

Oakmere 133-9 (40), Chester Boughton Hall 111-6 (26.5)

Chester Boughton Hall are the early pacesetters and are now the only unbeaten team in the first division. Their bowlers kept a tight rein on Oakmere's scoring throughout, with Charlie Scudder the best in this respect with 2-15 in eight overs. Despite the loss of regular wickets in reply, with three falling to Sarah Worsdale, Chester reached their revised target with more than six overs to spare.

Leyland 94, Didsbury 97-2

A glance at the headline scores suggests a comfortable afternoon for Didsbury, who won with eight wickets and 11.5 overs in hand. This fails to show, however, that Didsbury lost their first two wickets without scoring, and that they had still only scored three by the end of the 12th over. Lucy Murphy opened with five successive maidens with the Leyland new ball. Despite being utterly becalmed early on, Roshini Prince-Navaratnam and Hannah Marshall gradually rebuilt the innings and gradually accelerated the scoring, eventually finishing unbeaten on 57 and 21 respectively. Didsbury were fielding their strongest bowling attack of the season to date, and Marshall, Hannah Jones and Zara Matthews all enjoyed considerable success in reducing Leyland to 38-6.

Division Two - May 11:

Upton 168-6, Northop Hall 152-5

Upton recorded a second win of the year, while Northop Hall went down to a second narrow defeat. For the Welsh club, Emma Rixham again bowled well, and Poppy Smith and Laura Nicholls were once again in the runs, but Upton had performances such as Charlie Scudder's 61 not out to see them to victory. Scudder and Alexa Harrison produced a vital fourth wicket stand in the Upton innings after Northop Hall's bowlers had enjoyed early successes.

May 18:

Greenfield 100, Northop Hall 103-4

After a strong end to last season, Greenfield may have entered this year with high hopes, but so far it hasn't really worked out for them. Northop Hall recorded a first win of 2025 here after two narrow defeats in earlier matches. Abbey Young and Imogen Powell each took three wickets, paving the way for a comfortable run chase.

Upton 208-4, Hayfield 116

Upton completed a second win of the year over Hayfield. Charlie and Lily Scudder's century stand was followed by 4-36 from Alexa Harrison.

May 26:

Greenfield 107-5 (30), Didsbury 2nd XI 3-0 (2)

Sadly, the weather had the last word here. Abby Nicholson conceded just five from her six overs as Greenfield got off to a difficult start, before being boosted by an unbeaten 34 from Helen Smith.

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Division Three West - May 25:

Alvanley w/o Chester Boughton Hall 2nd XI

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Division Three East – May 18:

Buxton 147, Woodley 148-4

Amanda Gettins first took 3-20 and then made 60 from 66 balls as Woodley recorded an impressive win.

Macclesfield w/o Heaton Mersey & Cheadle

May 21:

Lindow 2nd XI 160-4, Stockport Georgians 2nd XI 128-7

Lindow achieved their second Division 3 win of the year in some style, with Louise Long (55*) and Claire Ashworth (38) adding 90 in quick time for the third wicket. Neve Boon's half century rescued Georgians from 19-3, but they were always slightly behind where they would need to have been to have succeeded in this daunting run chase.

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Division Four West – May 11:

Wistaston Village 119-3, Oxton 113-8

Bela Smith's 2-2 in four overs earlier in the reply was vital as Oxton fell just short, despite the best efforts of Molly Price, who finished 29 not out.

May 18:

Elworth 144-5, Grappenhall 145-7

This was possibly Grappenhall's best result to date, as they completed a potentially daunting run chase with seven balls in hand. Freya Walker reached the retirement score for Elworth, but Grappenhall's top scorer, Cheska Hales, made her 32 runs in just 14 balls.

Fixtures awaiting possible re-arrangement:

Kingsley v Runcorn – Kingsley unable to fulfil fixture on original date of 18/5

Division Four East - May 18:

Whalley Range 135-3, Brooklands 87-8

Whalley Range's excellent start to the season continued with a comfortable win here. Hannah Price made 30 retired once again and was joined on this mark by Aasma Hussain, with the final total being way too much for Brooklands.

Lindow 3rd XI 46, Stockport Georgians 3rd XI 47-0

None of Lindow's batters managed to get to grips with the Georgians attack, with Saratha Srinivasan and Evie McMullan recording the best figures. Blythe Beckett and Esme Halford then swiftly completed the run chase.

May 23:

Lindow 3rd XI 80-3, Toft 83-4

Toft became the last team across the divisions to start their campaign and they did so with a win, after opener Annabel Wong swiftly knocked off a good proportion of their target.

May 25:

Whalley Range 162-1, Stockport 66-8

Whalley Range continued their excellent form, while Stockport are yet to win this year. Noreen Latif, Nafeesa Haddad, Nida Bano and Chand Rano all reached the retirement score of 30 in the first innings. Latif was not finished there, taking three for five to snuff out Stockport's lingering hopes in reply.

Division Four South East - May 12:

Buxton 2nd XI 85-7, Macclesfield 2nd XI 86-2

Bethany Mottram's 30 retired at close to one run per ball spearheaded a comfortable Macclesfield chase. Macclesfield were able to give all 10 outfielders a bowl and still restrict their opponents to a modest score.

May 13:

Hawk Green 99-9, North East Cheshire 100-2

Patricia Hallas was the only double figure scorer for Hawk Green as they were kept in check by North East's attack. Rebecca Scholes and Ivy Floyd then completed what in the end was a comfortable run chase, although Hawk Green's Isla Jarvis took two early wickets.

May 18:

Lindow Development XI 100-8, New Mills & High Peak North 101-2

Seren Bull gave the Lindow innings some late impetus, but a lot of damage had already been done via some excellent bowling from Josie Stone and Imogen Schofield. Rapid scores of 33 retired from openers Rachel Monteath and Jill Langton spearheaded a comfortable chase.

May 20:

Buxton 2nd XI 93-7, North East Cheshire 95-6

More evidence here of North East's powerful batting as, despite the loss of regular wickets, they reached the target in 13.2 overs. Rebecca Scholes 33 retired from 17 balls was the standout performer, leaving Buxton's Charlotte Lacey on the losing side, despite her 4-19 bowling return.

May 25:

Lindow Development XI 88-3, Buxton 2nd XI 72-6

Alison Hodge and Flo Eyre lifted Lindow to a decent total, following a tricky start. Despite a recovery from 27-6, Buxton were always behind in their run chase.

Fixtures awaiting possible re-arrangement:

New Mills & High Peak North v North East Cheshire – NE Cheshire unable to fulfil fixture on original date of 11/5

Player loans:

Rebecca Parkinson – Leigh to Greenfield for league match on May 26 only

Bonus Points

The new facility on Play Cricket that automatically calculates bonus points has now been set up. It is no longer possible for club or league results administrators to make entries in the usual bonus point boxes.

There are, however, several situations to be mindful of:

Division 3 matches played over 20 overs per side. Here, the home team needs to change the entry in the Scheduled Overs box to 20 to ensure that batting points are calculated according to the correct run rate.

Reduced Overs Matches. If the number of overs available to the batting side is reduced due to ground or weather conditions, the home team needs to change the entry in the Scheduled Overs

box to the appropriate revised figure to ensure that batting points are calculated according to the correct run rate.

Abandoned Matches. If the result is 'abandoned'. i.e. play commenced but there was insufficient play for a result, then an adjustment may need to be made. If the innings ran to at least 10 overs in Division 1, nine overs in Division 2, eight overs in a 30 over Division 3 match or five overs in a Division 3 or 4 match played over 20 overs, then no action is required. If the innings was curtailed prior to this, you need to make a request to a league administrator for a manual adjustment to ensure that no batting or bowling points are allocated for that innings.

Female Overseas Players and UK Contracted Professionals in Cheshire Men's Cricket

The Cricket Committee of the Cheshire County Cricket League have recently agreed to allow its member clubs to have one male and one female overseas player. Although it has not yet been formally adopted into the CCCL rules, both the male and female overseas could conceivably play in the same 1st XI by discretion. Overseas female players can play in Saturday cricket within the CCCL provided they do so at a level no lower than the 2nd XI (or a 3rd XI which plays in a 2nd XI league), and provided that they are registered by their club as a CCCL player.

The same provisions apply to contracted professional women's players from the UK.

Officials

Cheshire continues to offer its wide range of umpiring and scoring courses.

These include a new Umpires course at Woodley CC on the evenings of May 27 and June 10 from 1800 to 2130. The total cost is £70 but when you umpire any five matches (whether it's 50 overs or 16 softball overs or anything in between) you can register this with Cheshire Cricket Board and you will receive £35 of this cost as a refund. You will also get a free shirt, a few other goodies and the invitation to become a member of ECB ACO, which is free for the first year (another £30 saving). As a member you are insured (personal injury and some legal cover) from the moment you go to a match to when you are finished. The course is interactive and fun, you'll learn a lot about the game and how to umpire at certain situations and be safe at either bowler's or striker's end.

There is also a female only evening course at Bowdon Vale CC. This is not an official umpire or scorer course, but it gives a bit of insight into some of the main rules, takes away some myths and covers some basic scoring and umpiring tips. The date to mark in your diary here is June 12 from 1900 to 2130. Bookings for this free course can also be made via the link above.

As communicated at the pre-season captains meeting, Division 1 of the CWCL will move to a system of appointed umpires from 2026. To be ready for this clubs need to ensure umpires are in an appointed listing, hold ACO membership (which includes DBS). Umpires may wish to attend refresher training, and these are promoted here when appropriate and across ECB Facebook pages including the Women and Girls Cricket in Cheshire page.

How ready do you feel for the changes coming in 2026? What do you need help with - how to get on appointed list, or any other questions? Watch this space for dates for face-to-face and virtual session to help Division 1 teams prepare for this change. Please share any feedback and Emma Mallinson, the League's Umpires Representative, will also be delighted to answer any questions.

T20 CHAMPIONSHIP

May 13:

Didsbury Swordettes 148-2, Nantwich Vipers 122-7

Didsbury struck an early blow as this competition got under way in its new format. Holders Nantwich now really face an uphill battle to retain their crown after Didsbury amassed 148 via Emilia Powell's 41, Roshini Prince-Navaratnam's knock of the same score and Hannah Marshall's 30. Grace Michell hit 13 in the opening over of the reply, but Didsbury quickly gained control via some tighter overs, with Jodie Filer recording the best figures in this respect.

Oakmere 41-8, Chester Boughton Hall Deemons 42-0

In contrast, it was all over quickly at Chester, where the home side achieved an incredible feat of economy. All four Boughton Hall bowlers who completed their four-over allocation – Daisy Cooke, Shree Dayama, Shana Kelly and Carys Lambe - conceded six runs or less, with Lambe and Dayama each taking three wickets to boot. Georgia Munro and Lily Scudder took just 23 balls to complete the run chase.

May 14:

Stockport Georgians 111-3, Lindow 113-4

More evidence here of the continuing rise in what represents a good score in a senior T20 competition. Not so long ago, 111 would not just have been viewed as a challenging target, in all probability it would also have been a winning total. Yet here Lindow chased it down with six overs in hand, suggesting that a target a good deal larger would also have been within reach. Hannah Wilke's 46 from 36 balls was the main contribution in the Georgians innings; and in Lindow's reply, Holly Topp made 35 from 29, before cameos from Carys White and Grace Hemsted completed the job. The record successful run chase in this competition is the 140 made by Didsbury against Lindow in 2022, but that record looks ripe for breaking before this year's race is run!

LEAGUE TABLES

All CWCL Tables

KNOCKOUT CUPS

Senior Knockout Round One - May 20:

Oakmere Kats 87-6, Chester Boughton Hall Deemons 80-7

Oakmere bounced back from a heavy T20 defeat to the same opposition in the previous week, and now proceed to a semi-final at Lindow. Carys Lambe and Charlie Scudder in the first innings and Thisumi Jayawarna in the second were the bowlers to concede three runs per over or less in this low scoring affair. Oakmere's Rachel Warrenger was the top scorer in the match with 24 not out.

May 22:

Stockport Georgians 119-9, Nantwich 120-6

It was a thrilling encounter here as Nantwich got home with one ball to spare. Tess Bailey was in the runs for Georgians as her side set a target of six runs per over, despite an excellent 3-13 for Rebecca Othick. Grace Michell and Sophie Winward both made scores in the 30s in the opening spots for Nantwich, but regular wickets soon started to fall and nails were well and truly chewed by the time they struck the winning run.

Development Knockout Round One - May 9:

Buxton w/o Toft

Round Two – May 18:

Runcorn 118-2, Kingsley 119-5

Kingsley edged home in a close contest in the final over. Tarryn Warman's economical spell in the first innings proved crucial and her runs also played a vital part in seeing her side over the line. Sarah O'Connor took 3-10 but ended on the losing side.

EXTERNAL COMPETITIONS

Thunder Cup Group 1 - May 18:

Edgworth 107, Stockport Georgians 110-2

Georgians stormed into the semi-finals with this victory. After Neve Boon's 3-25, Amelia Sammons and Skye Thomas completed the run chase inside 20 overs.

Ramsbottom 69-5 v Didsbury

This game ended early with the umpire concerned that the pitch posed a safety risk. Didsbury's bowlers dominated the 14.1 overs that were possible, with Hannah Marshall taking 4-24.

Thunder Cup Group 2 - May 18:

Lindow 381-5, Sefton Park 190

Lindow – and Holly Topp and Heidi Cheadle in particular – well and truly ran riot here, with an opening stand of 270. Topp hit 24 fours in her 128-ball innings of 148, with Cheadle registering 128 from 125 balls, with 17 fours. Emilia Lamb made 94 for Sefton, but they always looked destined to finish well short. Lindow have now secured their passage to the semi-finals.

Leigh 219, Leyland 159

Joining Lindow in the last four will be Leigh. Lucy Page and Sophie Heaton made fifties, before Peyton Hulme's three wickets in the second innings helped seal the win. Grace Nuttall's 33 was the top score for Leyland.