T20 CHAMPIONSHIP

July 1:

Nantwich Vipers 101-7, Chester Boughton Hall Deemons 102-6

Sophie Winward's 29 not out was the top score for Nantwich as all five Chester bowlers conceded between 16 and 22 in their four overs. Carys Lambe's 3-16 was the standout bowling analysis. After losing two early wickets, Chester quickly got back on track via Charlie Scudder and Georgia Munro, and despite 3-24 from Bethan Hughes, the Deemons got home with four overs to spare.

July 14:

Oakmere Kats 135-5, Nantwich Vipers 135

Losing the last three wickets with the scores level meant this match finished as a tie and that Nantwich ended their defence of this competition without winning a game. Thisumi Jayawarna made 45 retired for Oakmere, while Bethan Hughes recorded fine figures of 2-10 in the first innings. Charlotte Neal's 40 was the top score for the Vipers, as her run out followed two wickets for Charlotte King as they sought the one extra run they needed. Oakmere are also still without a win but have one game left to try to remedy this.

July 16:

Chester Boughton Hall Deemons 190-5, Lindow 159-4

Lindow's hopes of winning this competition disappeared as they were hit by a Chester run spree. After a wicket off the first ball of the match, Chester's batters took charge and were soon maintaining a ten per over scoring rate. This rate dipped slightly in the later overs, and they fell just short of a competition record, but the efforts of Lily Scudder, Georgia Munro, Carys Lambe, Tanvee Karasagod-Pallath lifted them to a daunting total. At 83-0 after eight overs in reply though, the question was – could Lindow smash out of sight the record for the highest successful T20 chase? Holly Topp's 41 retired from 17 balls was the outstanding contribution, but then some tighter overs followed in the middle of the innings. The four-over analyses of Lambe (2-19) and Ffion Jones (0-14) represent superb efforts in the context of this match.

July 17:

Didsbury Swordettes 128-5, Stockport Georgians 110-3

24 hours later, Didsbury were crowned as the first hardball CWCL trophy winners of the season. In the new format for this competition, the clubs voted against having a cup final, but here it still came down to a winner-takes-all match. Emily Wilkins and Roshini Prince-Navaratnam both reached the retirement score at better than one run per ball, but the final total was one that has been chased successfully on a number of occasions this year, so the Didsbury team knew they would have to bowl well. From 22-0 after three overs, Didsbury took control as they introduced their slower bowlers, with Jodie Filer, Hannah Jones and Prince-Navaratnam all excelling in this respect. Gaby McKeever made 40 retired for Georgians but took 49 deliveries to get there. It all left Didsbury champions with a game still to play. Chester Boughton Hall are the runners-up after having the best net run rate of the three teams who have finished on 9 points.

CHESHIRE WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Division One - July 13:

Lindow 268-5, Leyland 67

Lindow stretched their lead here with an impressive performance that highlighted the depth in their team. Carys White (74 from 87 balls) and Faye Smith (68 not out from 70) were in fine form. Leyland then initially struggled in reply against the economical spells of new ball pair Emilia Rossi and Hannah Rainey, before Harriet Ashurst really stunned them with three wickets in her first 15 balls. Her final figures were 4-15 and Heidi Cheadle took 3-9 in mopping up the tail. It ended a run of five league matches where Cheadle had either made a century and/or finished not out, indeed their Aussie taliswoman was held back to number six here and made 23 from 14 balls, but the overall effort was more than enough to see off Leyland.

Nantwich 181-3, Oakmere 182-9

High drama at Nantwich as Oakmere's last pair of Becky Jones and Annie Rashid put on 78 for the 10th wicket to see their side home with nine balls to spare. 65 not out from Emily Clamp, 59 from Morganne Prince and 31 from Bethan Hughes looked to have done the job for Nantwich, especially when Eleanor Sinker took 6-19 and Oakmere were 104-9. The last pair had other ideas and claimed their place in the league record books by passing the previous partnership record for this last wicket of 74.

The previous record was set by Didsbury's overseas player Lauren Smith in 2016, in partnership with Laura Smith. That was every much the sort of final wicket stand, where an established batter shields a number 11 who actually made just one run. In contrast, Oakmere's efforts came with their 10 and 11 at the crease and with the pair making almost equal contributions.

July 20:

Nantwich 4-1, Stockport Georgians dnb

Opening bowlers Rhia Sedha and Flo Batey conceded just one run each in 18 and 17 balls respectively, and then that was it for this potentially vital game in the relegation battle. Both teams remain in a perilous situation.

Chester Boughton Hall 151 (40), Didsbury 138-4 (34.2)

47 from 44 balls, adding 37 in partnership with Kate Chapman, steered Didsbury to this faster scoring rate win. Abbey Mayers' 52 kept Chester's score competitive after they slipped to 30-3. Kashmira Shinde then took the last three wickets for four runs.

With Hannah Rainey making her league debut for Lindow on July 13, we can update the list of full internationals who have featured in the CWCL. Rainey becomes the fourth player from the Wildcats – as the north of the border women's team is known - to have graced our league.

England Lauren Griffiths (Chester BH), Sophie Ecclestone (Chester BH), Laura MacLeod (Wistaston V), Sarah Collyer (Neston), Helen Wardlaw (Oakmere), Seren Smale (Nantwich), Enid Bakewell (Ashton-on-Mersey)

Scotland Liv Bell (Stockport G), Ruth Willis (Oakmere), Nadia Wheeler (Chester BH), Hannah Rainey (Lindow)

Bangladesh Mina Khatun (Trafford MV)

France Amy Seddon (Appleton / Lindow)

Guernsey Rosie Davis (Didsbury)

Qatar Ameesha Jabir (Nantwich)

Isle of Man Alanya Thorpe (Greenfield)

Division Two – July 13:

Didsbury 2nd XI 140-8, Upton 144-2

Upton recorded a potentially vital win at the top of the table in this clash of first and second place, and in doing so ended Didsbury's unbeaten record. Charlie Scudder struck in both of her first two overs to leave Didsbury on two for two, but they recovered well via Ramilee Cabral (45) and Zoe Rigley (25). After reducing Upton to 15-2, Didsbury may have fancied their chances, but the game was taken swiftly away from them via an unbroken stand of 129 between Charlie Scudder (66* in 59 balls) and Alex Harrison (58* in 53) and there were more than 13 overs in hand when the winning runs were struck.

July 20:

Northop Hall 148-8, Hayfield 149-1

Hayfield lost a wicket in the first over of their reply but, undaunted, Emily Bell – who took 3-3 earlier - and Sarah McCann proceeded to knock off the testing target for no further loss with nine overs to spare, finishing respectively on 86 and 44. Hollie Sigsworth's 87 for Northop Hall proved to be in vain.

Division Three West – July 7:

Oakmere 2nd XI 127-3, Alvanley 74

Maddi Lawson was far and away the top scorer in this match, and with her 61 from 63 balls being close to the final margin of victory, it was undoubtedly the match winning contribution. She was then one of four Oakmere bowlers to take two wickets for a single figure runs total during the reply.

July 8:

Nantwich 2nd XI 82-6, Chester Boughton Hall 2nd XI 46

The winner of this match would move into top spot, and it was Nantwich who claimed the spoils. It remains a four-way title race with all teams having played five or six matches and with just 12 points separating top and bottom. Eleanor Si8nker's 21 not out was the top score on either side in this low scoring affair. Ffion Jones and Lucy McCarten took two wickets each for Chester and this was repeated by Jen Dickinson and Emily Mason in the reply.

July 20:

Alvanley 152-4 (30), Oakmere 2nd XI 83-5 (22)

A decisive and potentially vital win for Alvanley. 57 from Lindsey Blain and 40* from Ellie Wright took them to a more than solid total. Lucy Graham took three wickets as Oakmere's top order faltered and by the time Rachel Tidd made 47 not out, it was too steep a task for Oakmere, with them needing 70 from eight overs when rain brought an early close.

Division Three East – July 13:

Heaton Mersey & Cheadle 97-9, Stockport Georgians 2nd XI 100-4

Amy Shaw's 45 boosted the home side after Neve Boon had taken three early wickets (her final figures were 4-23), but Georgians still romped home with 12 overs to spare, with Tess Bailey top scoring with 28 from 24 balls. This took Georgians to the top of the table, although unbeaten Lindow seconds have a game in hand on them.

July 20:

Macclesfield 117-9, Stockport Georgians 2nd XI 102

A third win for Macclesfield, with Anna Tunnicliffe taking four wickets to ensure Georgians fell short, despite Bethany Evans' 35. Emilie Ward top scored with 24 for Macclesfield.

Division Four West - July 13:

Runcorn 135-6. Grappenhall 91-8

Runcorn are sitting pretty in this division after reaching the halfway point with a 100 per cent record, while all other teams have at least two losses. Steph Woodstock and Sam Marsh were in the runs as they racked up a large total.

Wistaston Village 93-3, Lymm Oughtrington Park 70-5

Despite Dani Tilsley's 32 retired, Wistaston's batters never really cut loose, but she then led the bowling effort in reply, taking 2-9 as Lymm fell well short.

Oxton w/o Elworth

July 20:

Runcorn 62, Kingsley 38

Runcorn dug deep to preserve their 100 per cent record. Jules Bates 6-13 return was not enough to bowl Kingsley to victory, with Sarah O'Connor taking 4-5 and Steph Woodstock 3-1 in the reply.

Fixtures awaiting possible re-arrangement:

Kingsley v Elworth – Elworth unable to fulfil fixture on original date of 29/6 Runcorn v Elworth - no play due to rain on original date of 6/7 Lymm v Wistaston – insufficient play for a result due to rain on original date of 20/7

Division Four East – July 10:

Whalley Range 129-3, Didsbury 3rd XI 53-9

Another thumping win for the seemingly unstoppable Whalley Range. Aaasma Hussain was their top scorer with 30 retired and Noreen Latif's 3-3 was the best of a series of impressive bowling figures in the second innings.

July 13:

Whalley Range 127-4, Stockport Georgians 3rd XI 79-6

Georgians thirds got closer to Whalley Range's total than many other sides this year, but again the result here was never really in doubt. The reliably consistent Aasma Hussain and Noreen Latif made their 30 retired scores once again and Latif led the successful bowling effort, leaving Georgians' Bethany Evans on the losing side despite her starring with both bat and ball. Despite the Manchester club's impressive form, it should be noted that Brooklands in second place have still lost just one match and that the two sides will clash next month.

Stockport 49, Lindow 3rd XI 52-8

Phoebe Mallinson's incredible opening burst of 5-9 in three overs set Lindow thirds on their way to a first league win, although Emily Rayner (3-11) was among the Stockport bowlers who made their run chase more than a little difficult.

July 20:

Lindow 3rd XI 41-8, Whalley Range 42-1

Just two games left for Whalley Range to complete a perfect record, although a potential crunch fixture at Brooklands could still be lying in wait for their final match. Rabia Malik, Noreen Latif and Chand Rana all took two cheap wickets here, before Isabella Hunter's 25 not out anchored the run chase.

Didsbury 3rd XI 66-4, Stockport Georgians 3rd XI 66-6

This low scoring nailbiter ended with the teams unable to be separated. Anjali Santhakumar top scored for Didsbury with 24, then Holly Clarke looked to be taking Georgians to victory, but although she had 27 runs to her name, the final two balls bowled to her by Didsbury's Tasneem Akram were both dot balls.

Division Four South East – July 13:

New Mills & High Peak North 96-7, Langley 84-8

New Mills recovered superbly from losing three wickets to the bowling of Jenny Wallace in the opening over of the match. Annie Bate's 21 not out from 23 balls lifted then to close to three figures, before Langley were left to struggle against the bowling of Nikki Thorn and Rachel Monteath.

Macclesfield 2nd XI 123-6, North East Cheshire 106-8

New Mills would have been further boosted by learning that title rivals North East Cheshire had lost their 100 per cent record, with Macclesfield now the last team in this division to be unbeaten. Macclesfield largely tamed the North East bowlers who had starred so often this year, with Ponshirly Jayabalan supplying runs at the top of the card and Autumn Greensmith making a vital contribution in the middle order. Ivy Floyd top scored with a rapid 30 in the second innings, but North East lost regular wickets after Helen Johnson and Rebecca Scholes' opening stand of 41.

Hawk Green 137-9, Buxton 2nd XI 138-5

Although Richmal Giles got Hawk Green off to a superb start, it was Hawk Green who prevailed in this match between the two teams who were previously without a win. A collapse followed to the extent that Giles and Patricia Hallas were both able to return to the crease having previously retired and finish respectively on 39 and 34 not out. Laura Turner and Charlotte Lacey scored rapidly as Buxton completed what could have been a daunting run chase with all of three overs to spare.

July 14:

North East Cheshire 94-5, Langley 95-3

After winning their first five, it was back-to-back defeats in successive days for North East. Sian Avery-Lofthouse's 32 rescued them from a difficult start, but the final total never looked like being enough. Jenny Wallace made an unbeaten 33 to back up her two wickets earlier.

Lindow Development XI 129-3, Buxton 2nd XI 105-9

Ada Byrne and Seren Bull were in form with the bat as Lindow recorded a win that takes them within three points of North East Cheshire, and despite Macclesfield seconds having a 100 per cent record, this title race remains wide open. Emilia Bexon's 5-18 bowling return snuffed out any hopes of a Buxton run chase.

July 16:

Lindow Development XI 117, New Mills & High Peak North 77

Lindow extended their lead at the top, although Macclesfield 2nd XI have as many as three games in hand. Hannah Kirk (34) was the only one of their top order to score significant runs, as Rachel Monteath (3-12) caused problems here. The Wilmslow club did receive some valuable late order support from Suzy Ryder. Tor Gillis (29) was the only double figure scorer in reply as Bethany Seddon and Eliza Bannard-Smith both took three wickets.

Fixtures awaiting possible re-arrangement:

Langley v Buxton 2nd XI – no play due to rain on original date of 28/5

Macclesfield 2nd XI v New Mills & High Peak North - no play due to rain on original date of 8/6

Lindow Development XI v North East Cheshire – NE Cheshire unable to fulfil fixture on original

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Division 5

date of 9/7

Macclesfield, Elworth and Widnes have already completed title wins in the various softball divisions.

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Permanent transfers for remainder of season:

Eliza Bannard-Smith, Alice Westerby – both North East Cheshire to Lindow

Player loans:

Yazmin Saeed-Bruce – Woodley to North East Cheshire, for maximum three league matches commencing June 29

Fiona Reeve – Woodley to North East Cheshire, for maximum three league matches commencing July 6

On August 31, there will be another ECB new umpire course in Cheshire, this time hosted by Oulton Park CC. Total cost will be £70 (coffee/tea provided). Cheshire Cricket Board will refund £35 upon submission of an umpiring logbook with five matches umpired after the course - as the outdoor season might not cover the five, indoor matches are also accepted. Whether you want to support your own club, or umpire in one of the Cheshire leagues, this is the start for everyone. Please remember that from 2026, division 1 of the CWCL will have its own panel of umpires so if you want to continue umpiring in this league, or start doing so, please complete the course to be eligible for inclusion on the women's league panel. Registration is available from Officials Courses I Cheshire Cricket Board

The ECB has opened its <u>National Playing Survey</u> for 2025. This is your chance to shape the future of recreational cricket. The ECB values the opinions of players and volunteers, and your feedback is crucial for helping the game evolve.

As in previous years, you'll have the option to win one prize from the thank you prize draw!

The survey is open until Sunday, August 24. Don't miss your chance to have your voice heard and win one of the fantastic prizes!

LEAGUE TABLES

All CWCL Tables

KNOCKOUT CUPS

Development Knockout Quarter Final – July 7:

Buxton 87-6, Stockport Georgians 2nd XI 88-1

Hermione Trotter took 2-9 as the Georgians bowlers squeezed Buxton throughout the 20 overs. Grace Bell and Neve Boon's rapid scoring ensured a swift end to the run chase.

July 8:

Oakmere 116-3, Oxton 49-8

Oakmere convincingly booked a semi-final spot. Emily Faulner's 30 retired was the top first innings score as Oakmere posted a testing total, with only Molly Price (2-14) able to really stem the flow of runs. Oakmere had the luxury of giving all ten outfielders a bowl in the reply, and all eight of those who bowled two overs conceded less than 10 runs, with the best being Kate Renshaw (3-6) and Maddie Lawson (2-1).

July 9:

Whalley Range 98-4, Lindow 2nd XI 99-3

This was a first defeat in CWCL competitions for Whalley Range, who went down to defeat at the third division highflyers Lindow 2nd. Hannah Price made 30 retired for the South Manchester club, but her teammates were kept in check by the likes of Jo Seddon (2-14 in four overs). Carys White's rapid 30 led a successful run chase.

REPRESENTATIVE CRICKET

Vitality Blast Women's League 3 Division 1 North - July 13:

Cheshire 166-3, Cambridgeshire 136-7

Cheshire 162-4, Cambridgeshire 159-4

After winning one and losing one on each of the previous T20 matchdays, Cheshire made it a double here to finish the T20 campaign with four wins and two losses and a second-place finish in the four-team division.

In match one, Ellie Mason starred with 75 from 64 balls as she added 94 with Roshini Prince-Navaratnam, who contributed 46 from 33 balls. After a rapid start in reply, Cambridgeshire were pegged back by the likes of Rebecca Othick and Mason and finished well short.

Cheshire posted a similar total in match two and then hung on in a much closer contest. Here it was Megan Cureton and Emily Wilkins making rapid half centuries and Othick again shone with the ball.