



## THE 2025 WEEK 21 REVIEW

*The penultimate weekend saw an intriguing - and for those clubs involved, unbearably tense - last day in prospect with ups and downs at stake. On Sunday, Didsbury retained the Cheshire Cup.*

In the [Prem](#), wins for five of the top six ensured that the final day will see the focus well and truly on the nerve-jangling fight to avoid relegation, with three clubs all desperately trying to avoid that fate. Perhaps the side who look least likely to escape - on paper at any rate - are Widnes, whose 35 run loss at home to Brooklands left them needing to win away at champions Didsbury on the last day to have any chance of staying up. And, as Didsbury will be very keen to make it 11 wins from 11 in the W/L format of games, orders do not come any taller than that faced by the Beaconsfield Rd side. On Saturday they kept inconsistent Brooklands restricted to just 207-9, David Cunliffe's patient 61 the mainstay although the 66 runs added by the last four wkts proved crucial. Widnes were two down in no time and the run out of Aaqib Uppal (34) proved pivotal, leaving the hosts 85-5 which turned into 123-9. A last wkt stand of 49 was just beginning to hint at something special but AJ Hart's 40th wkt of the season snuffed that out.

As mentioned, Didsbury's emphatic 8 wkt win at Bowdon was their 10th win in the W/L format, achieved in some style at South Downs Rd as Charlie Lowen's magnificent 116\* and another half-century from Tim Hughes (57\*) saw the pair add an eye-catching 152\*. For the hosts, a twelfth loss sent them to the foot of the table, seven pts from safety and a trip to Werne Low on the final day ahead. Bowdon did win an amazing T20 game there last season so can draw some confidence from that, but with Hyde, who won by 78 runs at Neston (Ryan O'Brien 70, Adam Worrall 54) wanting to finish strongly, Bowdon will need their performance of the season to give themselves any hope. A special mention to Hyde's Luke Young, whose 30 on Saturday took him past 1,000 league runs this season - considering three of his first four inns saw him record scores of 1, 0, and 3, it's a superb achievement.

And, of course, both Bowdon and Widnes are not only battling against each other but also reliant upon Oxton's result to understand their fate. Oxton entertain near-neighbours Neston on Saturday, Neston relieved that they pulled themselves clear of danger whereas Oxton's slump has been well documented. After four straight wins to kick off the season, they've averaged just 6 pts a game across the next 17 matches, and Saturday's narrow 20 run reverse at Timperley left them with a nervous wait ahead of derby day. Tim Reynolds hammered a fabulous 129 (126 bs), his third ton of an excellent season as Timpers made 267, and although all of Oxton's top five got good starts, only Dane Williams (70) produced the substance



## 2025 WEEK 21 REVIEW - PREM cont. & DIV 1

as the varied Timpers attack kept the hosts on top, Williams the last wkt to fall on another frustrating day for his side. Nathan Brown's 4-35 (and handy 25 earlier) was a typically productive way for him to sign off at home. Alderley Edge survived a scare at Chester to win by 2 wkts, the hosts bowled out inside 40 overs for 169. AE reached 91-2 before Josh Leach's 4-29, and Jack Williams' claiming Sam Perry (67) saw AE on the ropes at 150-8. Will Valentine & Angus McKenzie withstood the pressure to guide their side home. At Upcast Lane, a little bit of CCCL history was made as Lindow's Heidi Cheadle became the third woman to play in men's Premier Division cricket, 10 years after Emma Lamb (Bramhall) and 20 years after Jenny Halstead (Poynton). Heidi has had an amazing season for Lindow's formidable Womens 1st XI, passing 1,000 runs (a record women's league season aggregate) including a run of four tons in five inns at one stage. Sadly she didn't get off the mark on Sat, one of five victims for Jason Foulkes (who passed 50 league wkts for the season) as Lindow failed to effectively build on another lightning start from Jamieson Hedges (45 off 21 bs), all out 183. Ali Chughtai was equally in a hurry, blasting 6x6 and 7x4 in his 87\* as Nantwich won by 6 wkts.

The meeting of the top two in [Div 1](#) saw Cheadle claim the championship crown after a 5 wkt win over Bramhall in an absorbing contest. Run scoring was hard work for the hosts who made 176-8 in their allocation after being put in, Will Holmes 4-26. Cheadle found it no easier and at 112-5 in the 36th, things were in the balance, but Holmes with bat in hand played another decisive role, partnering Ash Burton (71\*) as the pair added an unbroken 68\* to win the game with 7 deliveries remaining. The pain of defeat for Nick Cantello's men was compounded when news came through of Macclesfield's recovery from 98-9 to reach 178 against Port Sunlight, Miles Bradshaw (67\*) and Sam Hughes (35\*) adding 80 for the last wkt before Bradshaw grabbed the ball and claimed 4-20 as PS folded for 110. Bramhall still have a 13 pt advantage and go to Davenham on the final day knowing their destiny is in their own hands, while Macc travel to Sale and must simply win and hope.

Davenham's miserable season can't end quickly enough, and their game on Saturday was done and dusted in no time, as Stockport Georgians continued their late surge with a crushing 10 wkt win, Ned Bailey (58\*) and Francis Yates (51\*) knocking off the 115 needed inside 12 overs. Bilal Shah had earlier taken 6-10 to make it 18 wkts for 105 runs in his last five bowling spells for SG. Meanwhile Sale's disappointing 2025 continued after a 4 wkt loss at Toft in a low scoring game, meaning the Dane Rd side have won just 2 of their last 11 games (both wins against the bottom two sides) and are thankful to be already safe. Marple leapfrogged them in the table after a comprehensive 9 wkt win over Grapenhall, Jack Grundy taking 5-12 as Grappers were all out 75. Grappers remain firmly on course to rack up a record-breaking 22 losses in a season with mercurial Maritime making a first-ever visit to Broad Lane next Sat. Maritime have had an overall very good first season in Div 1 but Saturday was not one they will care to remember as they marked their final home fixture by crashing to 14-6 chasing Urmston's modest-looking 168-8. Skipper Thisal Jayawardene made a robust 64 but that was one of only two double figure scores as Maritime were all out 133.

*\*Congratulations to the brilliant Macclesfield scorer Sandra Mason who has been appointed to score the Eng/SA IT20 match at Old Trafford this coming Friday.*



## 2025 WEEK 21 REVIEW - DIVS 2 & 3

In **Div 2** there were celebrations aplenty in Bollington as Rick Hough's men secured their deserved promotion back to Div 1 after a three-season absence. Second in the table since week five, it's been a great season for Bolly who bowled out visitors NE Cheshire for just 93. Former skipper Harri Dickinson grabbed 5-32 as NEC were 48-8 at one stage, but some determined batting - and 29 extras (top score) - made a game of sorts of it, Bolly carelessly falling to 54-5 before Dickinson and George Lomas, who hit a six to win the game, did the necessary. That news ruined third-place Romiley's afternoon, after they were en-route to an impressive 265-9 (Tom Rolph 89, Isaac Willett 50) against champions Alvanley at Birchvale Drive and an eventual 115 run win after Paul Garner took 4-10, Alv all out 150. Sadly for Alex Hooton's side, their hopes of an immediate return to Div 1 weren't to be realised but there are plenty of encouragements to take forward for next season.

Attention is now well and truly focused on the battle to stay in the division after a heart-stopping game at Cale Green saw Stockport snatch a pulsating 12 run win over relegation rivals Haslington in what was a must-win game for the home side. Put in, Stockport really applied themselves to make 193-8 (Tamoor Malik 53, Dan Taylor 44\*). Haslington were soon up slack alley at 38-3, but determined batting led by Blake Blumeris (47 off 83 bs), and some stout mid-lower order resistance, kept the game on a tightrope before Naveed Gondal produced the perfect yorker to bowl the last man, Haslington 181. Those two sides are now separated by just three pts, yet both will still go down if Ashton OM (four pts ahead) can continue their late renaissance. With three wins in their last four, AOM have hit form at a crucial time, a solid batting effort knocking off the 210 needed to beat Oulton Park by 5 wkts, Fraser Hay having earlier taken 5-29 as Andrew Dufty was once again head and shoulders for OP with 83 (his last six inns = 107, 88\*, 45, 41, 17, 83). So it will be another nerve-wracking end to the season at The Beets next Sat as AOM entertain Cheadle Hulme with things in their hands. Haslington play Ashley at home while Stockport travel to Upton.

Elsewhere, Ashley beat Christleton by 27 runs while Cheadle Hulme's opening pair Jordan Potts (81\*) and Oliver Willett (92\*) put on a superb unbroken 192 to thrash Upton by 10 wkts.

**Div 3** saw drama at both ends of the table. At the foot it was heartbreak for Mobberley who will be joining Over Peover playing in the Cheshire Cricket League next season. Mobberley did everything they could at promotion chasing Oakmere, defending their 143 (skipper Ben Wood 63) with something to spare after bowling the hosts out for 99, and that total boosted by another wide-fest from the Mobb attack, 23 this time. However, it was all to no avail after news came through of Middlewich's comfortable 7 wkt win at Hale Barns which made them uncatchable and meant the return of CCCL cricket to Haddon Field had ultimately been 'mission accomplished'. Oakmere's loss, combined with other results, saw their promotion destiny taken out of their hands after Barrow moved into second with a 3 wkt win over Warrington in a fine game. Warrington recovered from losing a wkt to the first ball of the game to make 243, with three half-centuries (Liam Jenkins, Brandon Andrews and skipper Harley Barratt) and 41 extras the main contributors. Barrow made an even worse start, 0-2 after 1.1 overs, but Faizan Abid reeled off a magnificent 135 (83 bs) to spearhead a wonderful recovery, Abid dismissed with just 11 runs needed. Heaton Mersey sweated their way to a nerve-wracking 2 wkt triumph at Hawk Green, the hosts sneaking from 128-8 to 153 which took on great significance as HM slumped to 143-8. But Irfan Naseri, who earlier took 5-35, played out an ice-cool maiden before Hamza Butt clobbered a six to send HM third, three pts behind Barrow and eight ahead of Oakmere. So there are high stakes indeed next Sat as Oakmere travel to Mersey, but if Barrow win at Mobberley, all else will be academic. Elsewhere Winnington Park beat Over Peover by 3 wkts while Runcorn went fifth after thumping Tattenhall.

1ST XI PREM		
TEAM	PTS	MONTH
DIDSBURY	390	20
NANTWICH	342	20
HYDE	323	20
ALDERLEY EDGE	303	20
TIMPERLEY	301	20
BROOKLANDS	261	20
LINDOW	261	3
CHESTER BH	232	5
NESTON	219	6
OXTON	186	7
WIDNES	184	6
BOWDON	179	3

1ST XI DIV 1		
TEAM	PTS	MONTH
CHEADLE	368	20
BRAMHALL	329	4
MACCLESFIELD	316	20
PORT SUNLIGHT	282	5
TOFT	278	20
S.GEORGIANS	269	20
MARITIME	261	4
URMSTON	239	20
MARPLE	233	20
SALE	221	4
DAVENHAM	143	1
GRAPPENHALL	72	0

1ST XI DIV 2		
TEAM	PTS	MONTH
ALVANLEY	363	6
BOLLINGTON	326	20
ROMILEY	298	20
CHEADLE HULME	297	20
UPTON	263	2
CHRISTLETON	253	6
ASHLEY	246	20
OULTON PARK	227	5
N.E.CHESHIRE	223	2
ASHTON OM	168	20
HASLINGTON	164	5
STOCKPORT	161	20

1ST XI DIV 3		
TEAM	PTS	MONTH
TATTENHALL	324	2
BARROW	293	20
HEATON MERSEY	290	20
OAKMERE	282	4
RUNCORN	265	20
WINNINGTON PARK	263	20
HAWK GREEN	257	5
HALE BARNES	250	3
WARRINGTON	232	6
MIDDLEWICH	219	20
MOBBERLEY	197	20
OVER PEOVER	172	5

2ND XI PREM	
TEAM	PTS
DIDSBURY	390
TOFT	349
CHESTER BH	314
CHEADLE	285
OXTON	260
NANTWICH	258
TIMPERLEY	233
BROOKLANDS	229
WIDNES	187
HYDE	179
NESTON	177
S.GEORGIANS	156

2ND XI DIV 1	
TOP & BOTTOM	PTS
1. LINDOW	297
2. ALVANLEY	296
3. MARITIME	290
11. H.MERSEY	186
12. GRAPPENHALL	115



2ND XI DIV 2	
TOP & BOTTOM	PTS
1. A.EDGE	350
2. P.SUNLIGHT	296
3. ROMILEY	286
11. OULTON PARK	171
12. STOCKPORT	167

2ND XI DIV 3	
TOP & BOTTOM	PTS
1. WIN.PARK	363
2. ASHLEY	359
3. N.E.CHESHIRE	297
11. DAVENHAM	189
12. NESTON 3	116

3RD XI SUN PREM	
TEAM	PTS
DIDSBURY	150
BROOKLANDS	126
SALE	124
TOFT	124
S.GEORGIANS	116
TIMPERLEY	100
ASHLEY	98
NANTWICH	94
MARPLE/COMPS.	92
GRAPPENHALL	40

3RD XI SUN DIV 1	
TOP & BOTTOM	PTS
HYDE	172
DIDSBURY 4	156
ROMILEY	66
ASHTON OM	34

3RD XI SUN DIV 2	
TOP & BOTTOM	PTS
RUNCORN	158
DIDSBURY 5	158
BOLLINGTON	70
TIMPERLEY 6	42

## SUN 3RD XI OTHER DIVISIONS

Div 3 East: Top - Bredbury SM  
2nd - Sale 4

Div 3 West: Top - Christleton  
2nd - Oxtan

Div 4: Top - Cheadle Hulme 4  
2nd - Stockport



## WEEK 21 2ND & 3RD XI CRICKET

**2ND XI CRICKET:** Didsbury sealed consecutive **Prem** titles after an imperious batting display saw them pass 300 for the fourth time this season in their 168 run demolition of Widnes. Chris Becker led the way with a magnificent 142\* (his third ton of the campaign), putting on 161 for the 3rd wkt with Jack Hastings (78). Spinner Ed Catt then took his fourth five-wkt haul of the season - and his season's best, 6-25 too much for the Widnes team. Runners-up Toft lost out by 66 runs in a high-scoring game at Nantwich, Jackson Bentley hitting 131 in the hosts' 312-8. Ed Stubbs, batting at 8, sparked a Toft revival from 134-7 by smashing 98\* off 53 bs but his side were all out 246. At the foot, it was the end of life in the Prem for Stockport Georgians, who lost heavily at Brooklands (Sudanshu Rajshetty hitting a brilliant 132\* off 109 bs) while Neston gave themselves a shot at a dramatic last-day reprieve after winning by 19 runs at Cheadle, Chris Hackett's 5-26 Neston's star turn. That the Wirral side have a chance to escape relegation was due to Hyde losing out in a good game against Timperley, who racked up 312-9 at Werneth Low after being put in, Hyde fighting hard but all out 275 which leaves them with just a two pt gap between them and the drop zone. Neston entertain Brooklands while Hyde travel to Toft on the final day. In the other game a supreme 128 from Andrew McFarlane powered third-place Chester BH to 287-5 and a handsome 97 run win over Oxton

**Div 1** sees four sides all able to claim the title or a promotion spot, just 12 pts separating Lindow, Alvanley, Upton and Maritime. The first two of those four clubs are just a point apart in first and second, Lindow entertaining Sale and Alvanley away at Bowdon on the last day. Should either of them slip up, the game between Upton & Maritime at Old Greasy Rd will take on even greater significance.

In **Div 2**, Romiley's Joseph McNeeny's 119 was in vain as they lost by 20 runs at Alderley Edge, for whom Jonathan Steele made 117\*, leaving Romiley stuck in third, 10 pts behind Port Sunlight who had a 102 stand for the 9th wkt to thank as they beat Stockport, who were relegated as a result of their 30 run loss. Oulton Park's season-long struggle also ended with demotion after they lost by 3 wkts at Haslington.

**Div 3** saw Christleton all but safe after a second successive win, this one a stonking 212 run victory over Oxton. Combined with another depressing day for Davenham, who went from 63-1 to 107, reduced Hale Barns to 66-7 in reply but lost by 3 wkts, it all left Christleton requiring just two pts from their final fixture to be sure of survival, although with that last game being a trip to Ashley, who are still vying with Winnington Park for the title, it's not quite all over yet. Davenham travel to Chester BH, for whom David Henson made 108\* on Sat.

**Sunday 3rd XI News** In the **Prem**, a total washout of the four games meant that Marple & Compstall finished in the drop zone, both their games with relegation rivals Nantwich sadly rained off. **Div 1** was likewise washed out. Remarkably, two games were played in **Div 2** with Stockport Georgians clinching a fraught two wkt win over Woodley which lifted them out of the drop zone at the expense of Bollington. Chasing 117 to win, SG were 113-4 but contrived to lose four wkts in 9 balls without scoring a run! With nerves stretched to breaking point all over the place, keeper Vivek Sundaram smote a handsome six to settle matters amidst audible sighs of relief from the home support.





## CHESHIRE CUP FINAL 2025

**Upcast Lane: Didsbury 175 (28.5 os) beat Lindow 169-9 (30 os) by 6 runs**

Didsbury retained the Cheshire Cup in a nailbiting finish which kept a huge crowd engrossed to the very last ball on another unforgettable afternoon of Cheshire Cup cricket. Twelve months previously Didsbury won the trophy after a thrilling batting onslaught by skipper Nick Anderson yielded a 1 wkt win at Hyde. It was a very different game at Lindow on Sunday but every bit as gripping, although around noon any play at all seemed unlikely after torrential rain fell. But hard work and great commitment from Lindow players and members - and all the players helping lift away sheeting - got a 30 overs-a-side game underway at 3.15pm. Put in, Didsbury found it hard to develop any rhythm as the Lindow attack bowled accurately, wickets falling regularly, and with the large and vocal home crowd getting right behind their team, Didsbury fell to 130-8 in the 25th. The 9th wkt pairing of Sam Leech and Will Street only lasted 3.2 overs but in that time they added an exhilarating 44 runs as it was the Dids' supporters turn to cheer at last. Jamieson Hedges wrapped it all up with a pacy late burst (Dids leaving seven balls unused) before striding out to open the batting in overcast conditions, the tension palpable and the crowd riveted as Dids opened up with seam from both ends.

As so often in their championship-winning season, it was Liam Booth who provided priceless breakthroughs, Hedges dragging on, while Olly James and James Duffy were both bowled trying to break the shackles of Booth's relentless accuracy. Dan Newton fell lbw and when Sam Battersby slapped to cover it was 32-5. More drama followed as man-of-the-match Charlie Hodge (pictured, right) led a recovery, first with skipper Alex Matthews, then Finn Gavaghan, and most productively with Henry James, the pair adding 45 in 5 overs with bold, well-executed strokeplay that had the home crowd roaring with adulation. As the light faded markedly, hampering both sides, Hodge, having reached a fine 50 (43 bs, 2x6, 4x4) miscued a lofted shot to be caught at mid-off, Lindow 149-8. No.10 Isaac Brooks was then caught at short midwkt as the gloom increased in all senses for the home side, a wicket maiden bringing joy to the Dids team, but Henry James wasn't finished and smashed a six off the final ball of the next over as the home crowd went balloony again, 13 needed off the last as the light improved slightly. James Green stepped up and although a wide second ball made it even more tense, Green then got it spot on, no boundaries conceded as Lindow's dream was dashed at the last, and a delighted Didsbury team celebrated a fantastic league and cup double with their many supporters, skipper Nick Anderson lifting the trophy at 7.50pm on an extraordinary Cheshire cricket day.

