



THE 2026 WEEK 17 REVIEW - PREMIER DIV

Some fantastic weekend cricket saw intrigue at the top and bottom of many divisions, with the Cheshire Cup semi-final line-up being decided and joy for Lindow in the T20 Group Area Finals .

Win-lose cricket came back to the **Premier Division** in memorable fashion as Lindow produced arguably the best-ever chase in this format's short PL history after they won at leaders Didsbury by 7 wickets. Despite being without their recognised top order, Dids were in control in the early stages on a super pitch, an opening stand of 124 between Aex Young (64) and Jacob Mills (52) paving the way for Sam Leech (94 off 66 bs) to rediscover his best form as Dids reached 251-3 in the 39th. From there it was Lindow who grew into the game and went on to dominate, firstly restricting Dids to 312 and then putting together a fabulous run-chase led in part by Jamieson Hedges. The young Aussie, who made 95* on the same ground last season, made a brilliant 137 (135 bs, 3x6, 20x4) as he and Dan Newton compiled a stand of 217 for the 3rd wkt in some 30 os together, full of beautifully-executed strokes and good running. Dids had no answers as Newton went on to seal a superb 7 wkt triumph - with some 3 os unused - hitting his fifteenth 4, finishing on 116* (107 bs). His peerless run of incredible form (highlighted) is without parallel in the current era and has given Lindow a realistic chance of honours both within Cheshire and beyond - few would bet against his fifth ton of 2026 on Saturday being his last of the season.

DAN NEWTON

LAST 12 INNS FOR LINDOW:

81, 104*, 46,
150, 25, 73*,
66*, 118*, 62,
116*, 65*, 57*



runs: 963 av: 192.6 s/r: 118.1

With all of that going on, Hyde quietly went about their business, recording a thoroughly convincing 9 wkt win at Werneth Low as visitors Brooklands slipped ever closer to relegation. The Hyde bowlers shared the workload as Brooklands were bowled out for 187 inside 42 os, before Luke Young (80*) and Liam Grindlay (68*) shared an unbroken stand of 156 for the 2nd, the 20 pts sealed in just 33 os. That took them to within three pts of Didsbury and top spot, and Hyde's trip to Lindow next week promises to be something special - as well as pivotal in the title race.

Equally pivotal will be Didsbury's trip to Nantwich, as the faltering Dabbers look to reignite their title push having suffered successive league defeats. Last week's surprise reverse at the hands of Neston was followed up by a 2 wkt loss in a taut thriller at Chester BH. Andrew McFarlane was the surprise package with the ball as his 4-27 was chiefly responsible for Nantwich tumbling from 87-3 to 126-9, Jake Pearson ninth out for an adhesive top score of 41. Then a real twist as last pair Scott Wardley and Mitchell Spencer each made 37, adding a brilliant (in the circumstances) 71 which left a frustrated Chester looking at close on 200 to win. An absolutely enthralling run-chase ensued, CBH batting themselves into a bit of a hole at 81-4 by halfway, before McFarlane, batting at 7, was called upon again. He made an impressive 44 - the highest score of the game - seeing 77 precious runs added while he batted, but his dismissal in the 43rd over left CBH 164-8. For the (cont.)



2026 WEEK 17 REVIEW - PREM cont & DIV 1.

absorbed onlookers the drama was far from over, Josh Leach and Martin Green counter-attacking to knock off the 34 runs needed inside four overs, Green hitting a big six to win a thrilling encounter.

Having been too close to the drop zone for comfort earlier in the season, Jack Williams' side have worked very hard to string together a really good set of results, and can enjoy the remainder of the season. They travel to Kingsway next to take on fifth-placed Cheadle, who may yet have more up their sleeves as they contemplate the possibility of a late dash for the title. Given that they pulled off their eighth win of the season at Neston on Sat to leave themselves 34 pts off top spot, and that their last four games are against the current top four, that's far from beyond the realms of possibility. Although the win at Parkgate was unremarkable, it was nonetheless an efficient team performance, five of six bowlers used taking wkts as the hosts were bundled out for 170 inside 37 os. Despite losing a wkt to the first ball of their reply, Adam Dooler (54) helped steer the chase as Cheadle won by 6 wkts in the 39th.

Dan Fesmer, Chris Sanders and Will Valentine all took 3 wkts at Church Lane as Alderley Edge finally did something they hadn't done since May 23rd and won a league game. They beat Bramhall by 24 runs on that occasion and the reverse fixture brought them more joy, although it wasn't a straightforward affair by any means, as Simon Wilkinson made his highest score in 14 seasons. Batting at no.9, 'Spider' had a marvellous time bashing 64 off just 56 balls which took the hosts from 116-7 to the riches of 209. A strong AE line-up found themselves four down in the 22nd over, 100 shy of their victory target. Sanders then smashed a 48-ball 50 which changed the complexion of proceedings, taking AE to the brink of victory at 192-4, but Wilkinson snared him, the first of four wkts going down in four overs as Bramhall fought back superbly. However, Pat Ashling remained, and after a stylish display he powered a four and then six off successive balls in the next over, ending on 97* (94 bs) to seal a vital 20 pts for his side. For Bramhall it was another tough day in the Premier Division office, but they remain in touch, 27 pts adrift of safety. Their game at Brooklands next week and against Neston at the end of August are crucial to their potential survival.

In the other game an entertaining encounter at Stockport Rd saw Timperley skipper Ed Galley make a fantastic 126* (91 bs, 5x6, 15x4) as he helped his side recover from 119-5 to reach the heights of 309, 190 runs added by Galley and the lower order in a super exhibition. The bowlers then did their job superbly as Oxton were bowled out for 260, Henry Dobson dismissed in the first over and Tym Crawford falling for just 20. Grant Hughes (50) and Johnny Crick (52) battled hard but Timpers ran out winners by 49 runs.

In **Division 1** leaders Widnes and second place Bollington both took one more step in their respective bids for the Div 1 title and promotion. Widnes recorded a fifth straight win, this one a fairly routine 6 wkt victory over a Port Sunlight side who have had a generally disappointing season. They coughed and spluttered their way to 144 in 45 os at Beaconsfield Rd, Sean Bennett taking 3-17 including the key wkt of PS skipper Simon Melberzs first ball. Luke McCoy bowled a tidy 10-2-19-2 before hitting 51 as Widnes eased to victory in 33 os. It was even more comfortable for Bollington at the Rec as they recorded a second 10 wkt victory over Urmston this season (and third such overall). Rick Hough (64* off 71) and Andrej Yaksender (89* off 65) hammered 162 together inside 23 os, hitting 30 boundaries between them. It was their fifth 150+ opening stand of an amazing season for them both and for Bolly as a club, if you please, an extraordinary achievement. As for Urmston, although theoretically they still have 100 pts to play for, they seem resigned to their fate.

Alvanley, still stuck in the bottom two, still have a more realistic prospect of escaping but with two of their last five games against Widnes and Bollington they are going to need favours from other sides, as well as their best form, to have any chance. They ended up having a real (*cont.*)



2026 WEEK 17 REVIEW - DIV 1 cont, plus DIVS 2 & 3

scrap with Sale on Sat, no.9 Chris Charles rescuing a hitherto flaccid Alv display with the bat as he made 57* to lift them to 160. After an early wkt, James Dodds and Tyrone Lawrence added a steady 70 in reply, Lawrence (59, after bowling 10-3-18-2) becoming one of four Steve Charles victims as Sale slid to 134-7 before skipper Mike Bishop helped steady the ship and nab a 2 wkt win for his side, a setback for Alv's survival hopes.

All is far from lost for them, though, with Bowdon and Marple still within range. The two strugglers met at South Downs Rd on Sat, Bowdon winning a low-key contest by 8 wkts as Joe Chapple (71* off 155 bs) and Jack Tipton (47 off 100) took no chances in securing a vital 20 pts. Marple - left to rue Chapple being caught off a no-ball early on - have now lost five in a row and although they have a 36 pt cushion they will want to stop the bleeding asap. Back at the other end, Maritime kept alive their faint hopes of catching the top two with a trademark spectacular as they lamped 109 off the last 10 os against Macclesfield to surge to 308, Mickel Jospeh and Dinoshan Theivendram whacking 8x6 and 9x4 between them as Bilal Anwar (73) and Poorna De Silva (94) also chipped in. Matt Fielding decided he'd join in the fun too, hitting 4x4 in the first over of the Macc reply and going on to a superb 107 (87 bs). Jacob Tideswell made 55 but that man Vishal Barigela (4-44) again proved key as Maritime won an entertaining game by 40 runs. In the other match, Connor Hastings' fine form continued for Toft as he made 73, and Liam Clorley 53, in Toft's 6 wkt win over inconsistent Stockport Georgians, who needed lower-order resolve to get them from 86-8 to 179.

Division 2 leaders Upton had to dig deep at the Flacca, after a splendid Tattenhall effort reduced them to 83-6, their 162 target distant. Nathan Brown's determined 47*, along with 28 from skipper Tom Marsland, did the necessary after a nervy afternoon, but it was the sort of win that leading clubs need. Especially so as Oulton Park surged back into second after a whacking 217 run win over hapless Christleton at Little Budworth, the struggling Swans crashing to 58 all out as Kevin Douglas returned a wonderful 7-18 - and that after he hammered 50 off 44 bs batting at 9 to add 97 with skipper Andrew Dufty (93), OP recovering after losing 4 wkts for 16 runs in a mid-inns slump. A demoralising loss for Christleton, yes, but the foot of the table still remains very tight - Ashley are vulnerable after another heavy loss, Freddie Taylor taking 6-41 and scoring 29 for upwardly-mobile Haslington in their 7 wkt win, but they're only 31 away from safety at present. That's because Grappenhall suffered another setback in their bid for survival, going down by 59 runs at home to Romiley, despite Will Fell making a fighting 103. Charlie Almond's 5-29 were his best first team figures for Romiley, who had earlier seen Brodie Richardson (84) and Alex Hooton (71) add 99 together. So with the bottom three all losing, Cheadle Hulme's 7 wkt win over high-flying Davenham became even more significant, Hayden Forner (70*) and Ben Balderson (69) doing the heavy lifting in pursuit of 205, adding 121. Martyn East had earlier made an excellent 119 out of 179 while batting. CH got themselves 28 pts-worth of breathing space while Davenham slipped to third, but are only 3 pts behind Oulton Park - the teams meet on Sept 5th - before then, Dav entertain Haslington next week, Has just four pts behind them. In the other game, NE Cheshire's Chester Bowden and youngster Jack Cook took three wkts between them and then shared a gutsy 94* in 22 overs at Oakmere to steer NEC to a 4 wkt win.

In **Division 3** a classic last wkt stand between a set batsman - Muhammad Adnan 94* (116 bs), and a dogged no.11 Harvey Bushell 0* (7 bs) - saw 34 runs added for Runcorn as they squeezed past leaders Ashton OM in a thriller. The pair had taken four wkts between them earlier as AOM didn't properly capitalise on an opening stand of 111. Skipper James Marshall getting a first-baller didn't help but he more than atoned with 6-41 as the see-saw struggle developed. But, despite the loss, AOM are still sitting pretty at the top as their nearest pursuers Heaton Mersey fell in a heap at Bredbury, bowled out for 97 to lose by 69 runs. That slip-up not only kept BSM interested at the top, but it also allowed third-place Hale Barns to get within two points of HM after they won by 7 wkts at Mobberley, Khurram Hussain (73) and Joe Cooper (67, after 3-28 earlier) adding 117 together after Mobb skipper Ben Wood had earlier made a career-best 98. Winnington Park are the other side in the promotion mix, Johnny Wales taking 4-15 as they beat Stockport by 41 runs. In the other games Warrington won by 101 runs at Irby despite only posting 206 themselves, while Barrow survived a mini-wobble to beat Middlewich by 4 wkts at The Croft, Mikey Holliday (69*) thankfully not on holiday for the hosts, as he and Logan Malthus (60) added 99 together.

1ST XI PREM		
TEAM	PTS	MONTH
DIDSBURY	299	25
HYDE	296	22
NANTWICH	285	9
LINDOW	280	44
CHEADLE	265	44
CHESTER BH	206	24
ALDERLEY EDGE	206	28
TIMPERLEY	196	26
OXTON	181	32
NESTON	171	27
BRAMHALL	144	7
BROOKLANDS	97	18

1ST XI DIV 1		
TEAM	PTS	MONTH
WIDNES	297	40
BOLLINGTON	291	40
MARITIME	243	40
TOFT	238	25
SALE	211	26
S.GEORGIANS	207	7
MACCLESFIELD	189	25
PORT SUNLIGHT	184	22
BOWDON	170	26
MARPLE	165	8
ALVANLEY	129	25
URMSTON	116	3

1ST XI DIV 2		
TEAM	PTS	MONTH
UPTON	264	40
OULTON PARK	244	22
DAVENHAM	241	24
HASLINGTON	237	40
OAKMERE	206	24
N.E.CHESHIRE	203	25
ROMILEY	199	26
TATTENHALL	198	25
CHEADLE HULME	188	26
GRAPPENHALL	160	9
CHRISTLETON	158	8
ASHLEY	129	21

1ST XI DIV 3		
TEAM	PTS	MONTH
ASHTON OM	285	27
HEATON MERSEY	255	24
HALE BARNS	253	24
WINNINGTON PARK	245	27
BREDBURY SM	242	40
IRBY	199	25
WARRINGTON	197	26
BARROW	194	23
STOCKPORT	187	25
RUNCORN	181	26
MIDDLEWICH	115	24
MOBBERLEY	96	8

2ND XI PREM	
TEAM	PTS
DIDSBURY	275
BROOKLANDS	254
CHESTER BH	249
TOFT	248
OXTON	240
CHEADLE	205
NANTWICH	201
LINDOW	187
TIMPERLEY	163
UPTON	140
WIDNES	139
NESTON	136

2ND XI DIV 1	
TOP & BOTTOM	PTS
1. MARPLE	282
2. MARITIME	264
3. S.GEORGIANS	256
11. A.EDGE	149
12. ROMILEY	135



2ND XI DIV 2	
TOP & BOTTOM	PTS
1. GRAPPENHALL	282
2. WARRINGTON	278
3. UPTON 3	264
11. HASLINGTON	90
12. ASHLEY	70

2ND XI DIV 3	
TOP & BOTTOM	PTS
1. N.E.CHESHIRE	298
2. TIMPERLEY 3	249
3. BOLLINGTON	245
11. TATTENHALL	166
12. NORTHWICH	23

3RD XI SUN PREM	
TEAM	PTS
S.GEORGIANS	234
BROOKLANDS	225
DIDSBURY	219
MARPLE/COMPS.	184
SALE	166
TIMPERLEY	135
NANTWICH	134
TOFT	132
HYDE	125
ASHLEY	74

3RD XI SUN DIV 1	
TOP & BOTTOM	PTS
CHEADLE	252
ELWORTH	238
HEATON MERSEY	98
RUNCORN	56

3RD XI SUN DIV 2	
TOP & BOTTOM	PTS
BREDBURY SM	258
DIDSBURY 5	226
S.TRINITY	111
DAVENHAM	65

SUN 3RD XI OTHER DIVISIONS

Div 3 East: Top - Bollington
2nd - Lindow

Div 3 West: Top - Maritime 4
2nd - Northwich

Div 4: Top - Styal
2nd - Cheadle 4



WEEK 17 2ND & 3RD XI CRICKET

2ND XI CRICKET: After some recent misfires **Prem** leaders Didsbury got a much needed first win in four as they won a scrappy game at Upton by 41 runs, increasing their lead to 21 pts after Chester BH went down by 5 runs in a thrilling clash with Nantwich. Olly Howell batted three hours for a hard-fought 90* (172 bs) which proved crucial as a dramatic last wkt stand between Archie Riley (29*) and Robin Fisher (32*) lifted CBH from 130-9 to the brink of a famous win. Brooklands went back into second after a rapid 8 wkt win over struggling Widnes, Mark Bloomfield whacking 65* as Widnes sank into the drop zone, but only two pts from safety. And, although bottom, Neston are still in with a fair chance of escape too, despite their recent mini-revival coming to an end with defeat at Cheadle, they're only four pts off third-bottom Upton. At the other end, Toft stayed on the coat-tails of the top three after a solid batting display at Lindow saw them post 305-6, Lindow battling hard but all out for 237 after Ben Hamilton-Ryan (72*) and Henry James (70) added 144. Armapreet Singh took 5-50 for Toft, whose next three games see them take on sides around them in the table. In the other game Oxton's 7 wkt victory over Timperley was their fourth win a row, Charlie Clarke making 77* after Timpers had got from 71-7 to 157. That 20pts meant Oxton are only 14 pts off second place, with games against Chester BH and Toft coming up later this month.

Div 1 leaders Marple saw their lead shrink to 18 pts after they surprisingly went down by 18 runs at home to struggling Bowdon, who were the only one of the bottom four to win. Gayan Samarakoon made 94 for second place Maritime as they beat Hyde by 36 runs, while Georgians kept up in third, beating Bramhall by 6 wkts after Bram collapsed from 153-3 to be 166 all out, Bilal Shah 5-32. Mike Playle made 70 for Sale in their important 7 wkt win over Alvanley, which boosted Sale's efforts to avoided getting sucked into the relegation scrap. The bottom two sides, Alderley Edge and Romiley, both lost at home, but both could yet still save themselves.

In **Div 2** Grappenhall leapfrogged neighbours Warrington to take over at the top, Grappers winning by 7 wkts at Urmston while Warrington lost again, this time at home to W.Park. Upton got from 86-7 to reach their 153 target at Ashley and win a heart-stopper by 1 wkt, Upton well within range of the top two. Ashley are almost certainly relegated as a result and Haslington will most likely join them after their loss 14 run at P.Sunlight. AOM's Dave Corps took 6-16 as his side defended a meagre 113 with ease as Oakmere collapsed to 64 all out in reply.

Div 3 leaders NE Cheshire still have a healthy lead from second place Timperley despite NEC going down comprehensively at home, Stockport winning by 8 wkts, while Felix Birtles made 136* (109 bs) in Timpers' 313-8 against Oulton Park who went from 124-4 to 150 all out, Louis Foster taking 5-7. The meeting of third and fourth produced a high-scoring thriller, H.Barns beating Bollington by 1 wkt chasing 264.

2ND XI FINALS DAY

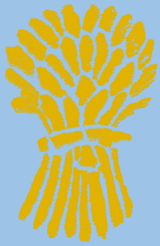
SUN. AUG 16 at MARPLE CC

10:15 SF1 - Widnes v Cheadle

13:30 SF2 - Marple v Neston

16:45 - Final

3rd XI League News Wins for the top three in the **Premier Division** meant next week's clash between leaders Georgians and third-place Didsbury carries extra weight for both. SG induced a shuddering collapse in the Marple/Compstall batting as they went from 136-4 to 140 all out, SG winning by 35 runs. Brooklands stayed second with a thumping 80-run win at Hyde (who slipped into the drop zone) while Didsbury steamrolled Sale in their own backyard, bowling them out for 85. Toft and Nantwich both lost and remain in danger, Ashley recording a first win of 2026 as they hammered the Dabbers by 97 runs, Alistair Badham bowling good 'uns to take 6-45 as Nantwich went from 63-4 to 76 all out. In **Div 1** the top two swapped places, Cheadle at the summit after easily defending 102 against Bramhall, while Elworth were beaten by Metrovicks. In **Div 2** the top three all won, Bredbury SM still leading the way from Dids 5s, with Ashton OM third after a tight squeak at Urmston. In **Div 3 East** the top two both won in style, Bollington (two centurions) by 196 runs and Lindow by 164 runs.



CHESHIRE CC NEWS

After two draws in their Cluberly Div.2 West matches - the bizarre points system meaning Cheshire got a point less than Dorset despite scoring 164 runs more than them across two innings - the team reverted to T20 mode for the Super 12s stage on Sunday at Wolverhampton CC. Despite an exciting tussle with Lincolnshire, Cheshire only just failed to get the six they needed off the final ball which saw them exit the competition.

So it's back to the 3-day competition, and after a number of lengthy journeys already this season, the ride to Redruth to take on leaders Cornwall on Sunday is crucial to Cheshire's hopes of a promotion push.



LINDOW continued their excellent recent run with a superb 5 wkt win over a strong Barnt Green team in the Group 4 Area Final at Eccleshall on Sunday. More details, including news of the next stages of the competition, in issue 18.

JIM RAFFERTY (died June 25th) - Jim's death at the age of 85 brought great sadness to many across Cheshire. Although he was a stalwart of Northwich Victoria FC, his involvement in Cheshire cricket was of great significance. Jim assisted with the merger of the Cheshire Alliance and the Cheshire Cricket League and was also heavily involved with his beloved Hartford CC, a player there from the 1960s, before later driving forward their merger with Winnington Park in 2022. Jim lovingly recorded the history of Hartford CC for posterity. He also served on the 4Cs Committee and was the auditor for the County League. Further tributes are online.

OVER 40s NEWS

In a season of surprise results, the o40s competition has reached the QF stage without Chester BH, winners for the last four seasons. Chester finished fifth in the Western Division, with Wallasey and Upton progressing. Neston, Sale, Cheadle Hulme and Grappenhall are also confirmed q-finalists with Bollington and Hyde (who finished first & second in the East division) awaiting their QF opponents.

CHESHIRE CUP 2026

Aug 9 - Quarter Finals:

Townfield Lane:

OXTON 126-3 (15.3 os) beat NANTWICH 123-9 (40 os) by 7 wkts

Oxton swept to an astonishing and resounding victory to reach the semi-finals for the first time since 2014, outplaying Nantwich in all aspects. Although the first two overs went for 12, that was as good as it got for the Dabbers as tight, accurate Oxton bowling proved impossible to get away. Ali Chughtai and Jake Pearson faced 48 balls between them for just three runs as Nantwich were 42-4 at drinks. Ray Doyle tried to turn the tide but his run out (75-6) was a blow that despite the best efforts of Scott Wardley (his 30 the top score) there was no real recovery from. Rory McLean (46 off 42) and Tym Crawford (57* off 34) then put the Nantwich batting into perspective with a flowing stand of 99 in just 9 overs which settled matters well before drinks.*



Bowden Lane:

HYDE 213-4 (38.2 os) beat MARPLE 209 (39.3 os) by 6 wkts

Late fireworks against their Div 1 neighbours decided an intriguing contest in Hyde's favour. Marple initially had the upper hand, Jack Feilen (58 off 58) and Charlie Hodgson (59 off 46) adding a fluent 69, but the Aussie's dismissal just before drinks left Marple 111-2, and from thereon the impetus shifted markedly to Hyde, all six bowlers taking wkts as Marple couldn't build any real momentum. Hyde in reply batted solidly enough but when Elliot Young enticed brother Luke (58) into a skied drive, it was 131-3 in the 32nd and Hyde still required 79. Young snr's celebration was short-lived, however, as Andrew Jackson strode to the crease and produced a trademark, but no less breathtaking, 60 off just 29 balls which powered his side into a fourth successive semi-final.*

Semi-Finals: Aug 16: Bollington v Wallasey Aug 23: Hyde v Oxton