



THE 2026 WEEK 20 REVIEW

Although there is very little actual cricket to review, significant matters regarding promotion and relegation were resolved in some cases, and at the top of all four 1st XI divisions, a fascinating final fortnight is in prospect. Disappointing news for Lindow who were eliminated in the North Regional ECB T20 Finals Day, and very sad news regarding the death of Ron Graham. Also in this newsletter is important information regarding the merger between the Cheshire County League and Cheshire Cricket League, which is intended to come into effect in 2027.

Only one match was possible in the **Premier Division** but Cheadle's dramatic win in a rain-affected game against title rivals Hyde at Kingsway set up an extraordinary finale to the season. The game was a fine advert for the CCCL, with both sides desperate to play and Hyde bringing along germination sheets with them to assist with getting the ground fit. As it was, Kingsway was in excellent condition with large parts of the square and bowlers run-ups covered, and a thrilling tussle ensued as the umpires wrestled with conditions and revised calculations after time was lost during the match. After a delayed start, rain returned after six overs and took out almost two hours of play, Hyde ultimately restricted to 32 os. The key moments came when Will Holmes dismissed Andrew Jackson and Charlie Barnard in successive deliveries, Josh Dooler backing Holmes up with a controlled display as all the Cheadle bowlers showed excellent discipline, Hyde all out 116. Needing a revised 106 for a huge win, Cheadle were in immediate trouble at 15-3, but Ash Burton got things back on track. Crucially, Burton was dropped, as was Josh Dooler at a later point, and despite the impressive efforts of the five-man Hyde attack, Max Fisher's 23 helped steer his side to a four wkt win and third place in the Division - and, possibly, two wins from the title.

The umpires commended both teams for their efforts and play on a difficult day - at one point 20 players were on the field helping to get the ground fit - and both captains in particular were singled out for praise.

At the bottom, the rain at Church Lane which prevented play meant that Bramhall will make an immediate return to Div 1, opponents Neston picking up six points which ensured their survival, at Bramhall's expense.

September Premier Division fixtures (11.30am start)

5th: Lindow v Cheadle; Nantwich v Brooklands; Hyde v Oxton; Didsbury v Alderley Edge; Chester BH v Bramhall; Neston v Timperley

12th: Cheadle v Nantwich; Alderley Edge v Hyde; Oxton v Lindow; Bramhall v Didsbury; Timperley v Chester BH; Brooklands v Neston

Ron Graham, whose father Fred gave his name to the 1st XI T20 trophy, sadly died at his home in Spain recently. As was his custom, Ron travelled each year to Cheshire to present the trophy bearing his father's name to the winners, taking in some league action too, usually at Hyde and Marple. The European Cricket organisation paid tribute to Ron, describing him as "a deeply loyal and highly respected ambassador" and a huge loss to Cricket Espana and wider European cricket. Ron was tournament referee in the first ever European Cricket series.



2026 WEEK 20 REVIEW - 1st XI and 2nd XI DIV 1, 2, 3, plus 3rd XI News

In **Division 1** the blanket washout of all six fixtures saw Bollington's first-ever elevation to the Premier Division confirmed, with Widnes needing just two points from their final two fixtures to ensure their immediate return to the top flight.

At the bottom, Bowdon now need just one point from their remaining games to retain their Div 1 status, with - barring an extraordinary sequence of results - Alvanley retuning to Div 2.

In **Division 2** Upton's Luke Camden hit an excellent 92 as his side gained a measure of revenge for their loss to Cheadle Hulme in the T20 Plate Final by recording a rain-affected 38-run victory, a result which left Upton needing five points from two games to ensure promotion. The meeting on Sat of Upton & Haslington (1st v 2nd) and Davenham v Oulton Park (3rd v 4th) will go some way to determining matters at the top. C.Hulme still need seven points to make sure of their Div 2 status.

In **Division 3** Ashton-on-Mersey need nine more points to return to Div 2 - one of Heaton Mersey and Hale Barns will join them, with both sides playing relegated Middlewich, and Hale Barns traveling to Little Ees Lane on the final day.

2nd XI Prem Division saw play in only one fixture, but what a win for Upton at Wirral neighbours Neston, Sol Turner the star man for Upton with 45 and 5-28 in their 84 run win. Ian Potter made 78 (67 bs) as Upton scrambled out of the drop zone, opening up a 13 pt gap between themselves and Widnes. Neston find themselves 30 pts from safety with only 40 to play for. Their trip to Widnes on Sat is the definition of a crunch game for both teams! At the top, Didsbury retained their 8 pt advantage over Brooklands.

2nd XI Div 1 saw Marple's promotion confirmed after their game at Macclesfield was abandoned, while Maritime's 8 wkt win over Romiley left them needing one more win to be sure of joining them. Meanwhile Romiley's loss left them 19 pts adrift at the foot, with Alderley Edge (3rd bottom) and Bowdon (2nd bottom) meeting this Sat.

Two matches were completed in **2nd XI Div 2** but neither had any real bearing on the top of the table, Urmston's faint hopes of pinching the second promotion spot alive for another week at least. But Grappenhall will definitely be going up with near-neighbours Warrington looking most likely to join them.

2nd XI Div 3 was completely washed out. Three teams - Timperley 3s, Bollington and Chester BH 3s will contest the remaining promotion spot.

The **Sunday 3rd XI Prem** is in Didsbury's hands - they face Ashley in their final game on Sunday, knowing that a win will mean they retain the title. The only team that can catch Dids - Stockport Georgians - face Hyde.

1ST XI PREM		
TEAM	PTS	MONTH
NANTWICH	331	55
HYDE	325	51
CHEADLE	325	104
DIDSBURY	317	43
LINDOW	311	75
CHESTER BH	239	57
ALDERLEY EDGE	237	59
TIMPERLEY	229	59
OXTON	213	64
NESTON	203	59
BRAMHALL	161	24
BROOKLANDS	123	44

1ST XI DIV 1		
TEAM	PTS	MONTH
BOLLINGTON	337	86
WIDNES	328	71
MARITIME	289	86
TOFT	257	44
SALE	245	60
S.GEORGIANS	224	24
MACCLESFIELD	219	55
PORT SUNLIGHT	214	52
MARPLE	211	54
BOWDON	200	56
ALVANLEY	160	56
URMSTON	128	15

1ST XI DIV 2		
TEAM	PTS	MONTH
UPTON	307	83
HASLINGTON	283	86
DAVENHAM	271	54
OULTON PARK	257	35
TATTENHALL	244	71
ROMILEY	230	57
N.E.CHESHIRE	230	52
OAKMERE	225	43
CHEADLE HULME	219	57
GRAPPENHALL	191	40
CHRISTLETON	186	36
ASHLEY	160	52

1ST XI DIV 3		
TEAM	PTS	MONTH
ASHTON OM	331	73
HEATON MERSEY	301	70
HALE BARNS	299	70
BREDBURY SM	272	70
WINNINGTON PARK	259	41
RUNCORN	227	72
WARRINGTON	225	54
STOCKPORT	219	57
IRBY	214	40
BARROW	212	41
MIDDLEWICH	145	54
MOBBERLEY	106	18

2ND XI PREM	
TEAM	PTS
DIDSBURY	308
BROOKLANDS	300
CHESTER BH	280
TOFT	278
OXTON	270
CHEADLE	251
NANTWICH	234
LINDOW	202
TIMPERLEY	196
UPTON	184
WIDNES	171
NESTON	154

2ND XI DIV 1	
TOP & BOTTOM	PTS
1. MARPLE	335
2. MARITIME	308
3. S.GEORGIANS	287
11. BOWDON	174
12. ROMILEY	161



2ND XI DIV 2	
TOP & BOTTOM	PTS
1. GRAPPENHALL	328
2. WARRINGTON	307
3. H.MERSEY	281
11. HASLINGTON	126
12. ASHLEY	88

2ND XI DIV 3	
TOP & BOTTOM	PTS
1. N.E.CHESHIRE	344
2. TIMPERLEY 3	279
3. BOLLINGTON	274
11. TATTENHALL	198
12. NORTHWICH	32

3RD XI SUN PREM	
TEAM	PTS
DIDSBURY	265
S.GEORGIANS	251
BROOKLANDS	237
MARPLE/COMPS.	216
SALE	212
TOFT	170
TIMPERLEY	168
NANTWICH	163
HYDE	134
ASHLEY	104

3RD XI SUN DIV 1	
TOP & BOTTOM	PTS
CHEADLE	294
ELWORTH	259
HEATON MERSEY	118
RUNCORN	70

3RD XI SUN DIV 2	
TOP & BOTTOM	PTS
BREDBURY SM	287
DIDSBURY 5	281
S.GEORGIANS 4	154
DAVENHAM	81

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



Lindow's brilliant achievement in reaching the North Regional Final reached its conclusion on Sunday when they were comfortably beaten by eventual winners on the day, Townville CC. Playing in the first semi, Townville posted 161-7, a challenging but not impregnable total. However it soon became just that as Tom Chippendale ripped the heart out of the Lindow reply as he dismissed four of the top five in quick succession, Lindow reeling at 21-5 just after the powerplay and unable to recover. Townville went on to beat Northern by 59 runs in the final.



CHESHIRE CC NEWS

NCCA Cluberly West Div 2

Alderley Edge CC

Wales NC 487-2 (90 os) & 287-6

Cheshire 381-9 (90 os) & 202

Wales won by 191 runs

A disappointing campaign in the three-day format saw Cheshire finish at the foot of the table after they collapsed during a notional chase of 394 on the final day. You can pick over the bones of the match in more detail by looking at the full report on the Cheshire CC website.

OVER 40s FINALS DAY Timperley CC

O40s CUP FINAL (23rd Aug):

Hyde 181-5 (20 os) beat Grappenhall 116 (18.1 os) by 65 runs

A dominant display saw Hyde crowned o40s champions, capitalising on great conditions having been put into bat. Rob Brierley, Chris Mackenzie and skipper Glyn Peacock all reached retirement scores, with a handy 25* from Peter Hills, giving Hyde a huge total to defend which they did with ease. Richard Chew's 4-26 induced a shuddering collapse as Grappers fell well short.

CCCL & CCL MERGER

A merger between the Cheshire County League and Cheshire Cricket League was agreed in principle at AGM's earlier in the year. Since that time intensive work has been conducted by the Project Steering Group to make these aspirations a reality. We are now at a stage where the proposals can be shared with a view to being voted on and adopted.

A special meeting has been arranged for Monday 12th October, at the Halton Stadium in Widnes, 7.00pm-9.00pm.

At this meeting we will firstly conduct dissolution proceedings of the two current organisations before moving on to vote on ratifying the new constitution for the merged league. We will also vote on whether to move to an open structure in 2027 where 1st XI and 2nd XI teams are integrated into a single structure. All Club Chairs have been sent six full length documents to share with their players to allow discussion and to give the Chair a club mandate as to how they vote, particularly on the Open Structure proposal.

The complete documents can also be found on CCCL and CCL Play-Cricket sites but on the following pages are an abridged summary of the major points of the documents. If you haven't seen the material or if your opinion has not yet been sought, then please encourage debate at your club so that your Chair can properly reflect your club's view as to how they should vote on October 12th.

MERGER OF CHESHIRE COUNTY LEAGUE AND CHESHIRE CRICKET LEAGUE

The thinking behind the 'Open Structure'

- ♦ **Natural Levelling:** Teams are placed based on **ability rather than status**. A strong 2nd XI can test themselves against 1st XIs of a similar standard, preventing "dead rubber" games against much weaker reserve sides.
- ♦ **Player Retention:** Younger players or high-level amateurs are more likely to stay at their club if they can play **competitive, meaningful cricket** in the 2nd XI, rather than playing in a league with no promotion stakes.
- ♦ **Club Development:** It rewards clubs with **depth**. A club with two teams high up the pyramid is often more sustainable and attractive to new members than a club where the 2nd XI is trapped in a low-level regional bracket.
- ♦ **Reduced Travel:** Open structures often allow for better **regional grouping** in lower divisions. Instead of a 2nd XI travelling across the county to play another 2nd XI, they can play a local 1st XI a short distance away.
- ♦ **Integrity of Competition:** It eliminates the "closed shop" feel. In the current system, a strong 2nd XI often has nothing to play for; in an open system, they have the **incentive of promotion**, which keeps the standard of play higher throughout the season.
- ♦ **Other Premier Leagues have adopted Open Structure:** many leagues like CCCL have moved to an open structure over the past 10 years and have realised the benefits highlighted above.

Promotion and relegation are in place as normal at end of 2026 season, so the usual incentives remain.

MERGER OF CHESHIRE COUNTY LEAGUE AND CHESHIRE CRICKET LEAGUE

Proposed 'Open Structure'

MERGED LEAGUE IS SPLIT INTO TIERS

Tier 1: 1st XI Prem & Div 1 = *Hybrid Cricket Combination of 11 win-lose matches (colours, 100 overs) & 11 win-lose-draw matches (whites, 110 overs)*

Prem: Made up of the top 10 Prem clubs plus 2 promoted from Div 1

Div 1: Eight teams plus two promoted from D2 and two relegated from Prem

All other tiers/divisions are red ball/whites competitions.

Tier 2: *Win-Lose cricket (100 overs)*

Div 2: Eight teams from 1st XI D2 plus two promoted from D3 and two relegated from D1

Div 3: Eight teams from 1st XI D3 plus two promoted from 2nd XI Prem and two relegated from D2

Div 4: Eight CCCL 2nd XI Prem teams, plus champs from 2nd XI D1, champs from CCL Div 1, and two teams relegated from 1st XI D3

Tier 3: *Win-Lose cricket (90 overs)*

Div 5: Six teams from CCL D1 (who finished 2-7) plus four teams from CCCL 2nd XI D1 and two teams relegated from CCCL 2nd XI Prem

Div 6: Four teams from CCL D1 (who finished 8-11) plus two promoted from CCL D2, five from CCCL 2nd XI Div 1 and champs of CCCL 2nd XI Div 2

Div 7: Five teams from CCL D2 (who finished 3-7), four teams from CCCL 2nd XI D2, two teams relegated from CCCL 2nd XI D1, plus one relegated from CCL D1

Div 8: Four teams from CCL D2, four teams from CCCL 2nd XI D2; 2 teams promoted from CCL D3, plus two teams promoted from CCCL 2nd XI D3

Div 9 (E/W): Seven teams from CCL D3, ten teams from CCCL 2nd XI D3; three relegated from CCCL 2nd XI D2, one relegated from CCL D2, three teams from CCL Div A

Tier 4: *Win-Lose cricket (80 overs)*

Space does not permit fuller detail but this tier would essentially be split on an east-west basis between CCL 2nd XI teams.

CONSTITUTION

The new constitution would provide a number of positive changes:

A simple majority to carry votes

A smaller, more focused Executive Committee providing strong leadership

Player representation on Executive Committee

ADMINISTRATIVE ADVANTAGES

Allows a degree of flexibility on speed of Play Cricket registration for lower-level teams.

Provides a structure for the loaning of players within the lower-level teams.

Provides flexibility in relation to ground conditions whilst enforcing the message that certain standards are required and that there is an intention to drive improvements.

Maintains existing disciplinary procedures whilst encouraging the practice of using electronic means of hearing appeals (Teams, Zoom etc).

ASK YOUR CLUB CHAIR FOR THE FULL MERGER DOCUMENTATION, OR GO TO EITHER LEAGUE'S PLAY-CRICKET SITE