



THE 2026 WEEK 21 REVIEW - PREMIER DIV

It was a time of 'goodbye and thank you' across the CCCL on Saturday, including a fond farewell to a much-loved building. On the field, more issues at top and bottom of divisions were decided, with the Prem assured of a once-in-a-lifetime climax. On Sunday a packed house at Werneth Low saw Hyde win the Cheshire Cup.

And so. After much musing over possibilities and permutations in previous weeks, the **Premier Division** is all set for an historic final day when league leaders Nantwich travel to Kingsway to take on Cheadle. It's first against second, with the winner crowned as champions, a situation thought to be unprecedented in CCCL history. With the biggest prize on offer, the two sets of players, and the match officials, will be undergoing an extraordinary week of anticipation in the build-up to Saturday, and a large gathering of spectators is anticipated for what promises to be a fine match against two sides with contrasting pedigrees but no shortage of talented players.

For Nantwich, six Premier Division titles, plus a wealth of big-occasion experience - and leading the table in 2026 after finishing runners-up last season - makes them favourites in the eyes of many. This time last season Cheadle were celebrating promotion from Div 1, and were initially looking at their Prem calendar with a view to what might be needed to stay up come September. Josh Dooler's men suffered a heavy loss at Whitehouse Lane at the end of June - but little did they suspect then that it would be the last time they would taste defeat in the league. Cheadle drew their four July fixtures before putting together a run of six successive wins, beating all the teams around them at the top in that time, and now find themselves on the brink of arguably the most amazing triumph of them all after a superb run of form.

That run continued at Upcast Lane on Saturday where, despite struggling for fluency with the bat, Cheadle eked out 187, a handy last wkt stand of 37 a big part of that, as well as an untidy Lindow attack bowling 33 wides (43 extras in total). Alex Matthews was by far the pick of the bowlers with 3-23, which put him joint-top of the leading Prem wkt takers list. The other joint-topper is Ben Broadhurst, the left-armer's wonderful season continuing as he added to his precious 15* at no.11 with three big scalps, Lindow's batting hangover after their disappointing National T20 exit continuing as they managed just 106. The four-man Cheadle attack's potency was aided by a superb fielding effort and the confidence flowing through Josh Dooler's side is evident to all.

Nantwich will be only too aware of that, and their mixed August form - two wins, two defeats and the frustration of a wash-out - was perhaps playing on their minds as they hosted relegated Brooklands, who had won on their last two visits to Whitehouse Lane. They came pretty close to making it a hat-trick but Nantwich got over the line thanks to a gritty ninth-wkt stand of 30* between Phil Stockton (27* off 52 after 2-27 earlier) and Scott Wardley, who hit the winning runs to end 17* after taking 4-32. Brooklands batted for all but one ball of their allocation, making 230, Joe Gill blazing a 37-ball (cont.)



2026 WEEK 21 REVIEW - PREM cont & DIV 1.

56 at no.8 before becoming one of three victims of Ray Doyle in the final over (just to add more spice, the former skipper will claim he goes into Saturday on a hat-trick after finishing the innings with two-in-two!). Rob Leach then took a wkt with the first ball of the reply, later dispatching Ali Chughtai and running out Luke Robinson before really putting the wind up the hosts with two wkts in two balls (across two overs) as Nantwich slipped to 201-8, before salvation via the afore-mentioned stand.

Whatever the outcome at Kingsway on Saturday, both sides have played excellent cricket this year and deserve their crack at the title.

Didsbury's damaging slump in form has seen their hopes of retaining the Prem crown disappear, but they at least gave themselves a chance of a third place finish with a convincing 7 wkt win over Alderley Edge. It was a poignant day at Wilmslow Rd, a significant chapter in the amazing recent Didsbury story coming to an end as Nick Anderson stepped down as captain. Having masterminded two Premier Division wins and two Cheshire Cup triumphs, the former Cheshire skipper signed off from his club responsibilities in typical style, blasting 26 off an over to practically settle matters. There was also a fond farewell of a different sort at Filkins Lane, where Chester BH legend Warren Goodwin played his final game before retirement. It wasn't exactly a fairytale ending as Goodwin made just 8 and his big mate Rick Moore - given permission to play in Warren's final match - gatecrashed the occasion with 4-18, two slip catches and being in the middle when the winning runs were scored! But Goodwin was, in the words of umpire Graham Pugh, relieved not to have done a Bradman, hitting a stylish four before falling to a superb catch at third man by Bramhall youngster Samee Hussain, making his Prem debut. The Bramhall players gave Warren a guard of honour as he walked out to bat, and with some 17,500 career runs and many highlights to look back on, he will be sorely missed in CBH colours.

Successive home reverses either side of a cancelled game has derailed Hyde's title challenge. Without talisman Andrew Jackson they suffered defeat at the hands of Oxton - the visitors gaining a measure of revenge after their recent thrashing in the Cheshire Cup SF at Werneth Low. Put into bat, mercurial Oxton didn't even bat out 30 overs, but they racked up 231 in that time (Henry Dobson 54 off 40). Hyde replied in kind, Luke Young's excellent recent form continuing with 66, but his departure saw the board showing 126-6, the lower order fighting hard but all out 193 in the 29th. Having not made a half-century until mid-July, Zach Thompson's scores for Timperley since read: 83, 1, 74, 127, 9, 99* - that last knock a fantastic effort which inched Timpers to a thrilling 1 wkt win at Neston. The in-form youngster hammered a six to win the game, ending just short of a ton, having coaxed vital support from 15 yr old Aryan Dash as the pair batted for almost five overs to make the 21 needed. Matt Maritz earlier made 95 for Neston who could enjoy a tension-free end to their campaign having secured their Prem status.

The **Division 1** campaign is now effectively all over a week early, with the only outstanding matter of who would be champions settled pretty quickly, as a Tom Horsfield hat-trick enabled Bollington to induce a shuddering Alvanley collapse at the Rec, Alv sliding from 49-2 to 89 all out within 10 overs. Sophie Ecclestone's early strike proved academic, skipper Rick Hough ending 39* as he watched Tyran Liddiard strike the winning boundary to seal a magnificent year for the club. Successive promotions - and now the Div 1 title - along with a first-ever elevation to the Prem is an impressive achievement, and although their maiden appearance in the Cheshire Cup Final was to end in disappointment, simply getting there was no mean feat in itself and marks another milestone on the Bollington journey.

Widnes' hopes of the title were therefore over in short order, but they will be content enough to have made it back to the Prem at the first attempt. They suffered a fourth reverse of the season at Bowdon, relegated with Widnes last season and who have made very heavy weather of life in Div 1, only securing their status last week after a turgid campaign. But with the spectre of relegation gone, Bowdon produced (cont.)



2026 WEEK 21 REVIEW - DIV 1 cont, plus DIVS 2 & 3

arguably their brightest display of the season with the bat, knocking off their 243 target with some three overs and six wkts in hand. Ashwin Sharma produced the innings of the day, a lovely 95 (114 bs, 4x6, 6x4) made out of 144 whilst batting. Joe Chapple was happy to play second fiddle throughout, his fine run of recent form (73, 45, 71*, 52, 41) continuing as he ended 66* to go with 3-21 earlier. In that Widnes innings, skipper Alex Hewitt had made his fourth half-century of the season, his resourceful 67 (61 bs) giving his side a respectable score, and although it turned out to be a bitter-sweet day for the Widnes club as a whole, the 1st XI can be proud of their achievement and will winter looking forward to the challenge of the Prem in 2027.

Elsewhere there was vey much an 'end of term' feel to proceedings, with the match at Booths Park also the end of an era as Toft bade farewell to their much-loved pavilion/clubhouse. Visitors on the day Sale spoiled the party to an extent, winning a very watchable game by 4 wkts, and with his side a promising 'work in progress', skipper and Sale stalwart Mike Bishop will be approaching his last ever game for the club on Saturday before retiring from playing with the prospect of a highly respectable fourth place finish in the offing.

Maritime will finish third - the points deductions suffered at the start of the season proved extremely costly, but there is no doubt that in 2027 they will be putting together a serious title challenge. They can also end 2026 boasting the best 1st XI bowling figures of the season as Qasim Ali spun his way to 8.5-3-15-9 in the sheepish capitulation of hapless Urmston, in a match that lasted barely 25 overs.

A nail-biting final day is in prospect in **Division 2** with matters at both ends of the table left wide open after Saturday's results. The meeting of first and second at Clay Lane saw a nerve-jangling 2 wkt win for Haslington chasing just 91, after Upton suffered a total off-day with the bat, struggling to just 90 off 41 os. Jack Taylor (10-5-22-4) and Tom Gledhill (10-6-5-2) tied Upton in knots, skipper Ben Istead chipping in with three wkts, but he was to endure a tortuous watch as Haslington found it every bit as hard going, the 9th wkt pair scrambling from 81-8 to the victory target. It was equally dramatic at Butcher's Stile, where third place Davenham were sitting pretty after a fabulous 98 from skipper Connor Mizzi led the way to a massive 294-5 against fourth-place Oulton Park, whose dip in form left their promotion hopes hanging by a thread. After an excellent opening stand of 118, OP were becalmed at 194-6 in the 36th, but a superb stand of 72 in just 11 os revived the chase amidst growing tension. Mizzi then held on to a vital catch to dismiss George Moss (32), the 13 needed off the last proving too many as Dav won by 5 runs. OP were left to regret an untidy display with the ball which included 40 wides, which means any of the top three are still able (notionally) to claim the title. Upton remain in a strong position - just two pts from their final game will confirm promotion at least - but their opponents Christleton will arrive at Old Greasby Rd needing 7 pts to stay up, after they pulled off an impressive chase of 209 to beat NE Cheshire. That win, combined with news of a disastrous (for them) defeat by Grappenhall, left Christleton in charge of their own destiny on the final day at least - but assignments couldn't get much harder than a trip to a side needing a win to be champions, so it promises to be quite a match. As for a chastened Grappers, walloped by 10 wkts at Broad Lane by Oakmere, they travel to Oulton Park needing a win and help from Upton. Haslington travel to Tattenhall knowing a win will confirm their promotion (and possibly the title if Upton stutter) while Davenham go to Romiley needing 20 pts and favours from elsewhere.

The **Division 3** title and promotion race will go to the last day. Ashton OM need five pts to ensure an immediate return to Div 2 as champions, although they were disappointed not to have got the job done on Saturday at Irby, after having the hosts 118-7 needing 172. T20 specialist Muhammad Rizwan Jnr biffed 31 off 17 bs batting at no.8 to help take Irby to a 1 wkt win, so the visit of third-place Hale Barns to The Beets on Sat has more resting on it for AOM than they would have hoped. A win for HB could theoretically see them promoted - they produced a controlled chase of 207 to beat a spirited Middlewich at Brooks Drive, Joe Cooper making a fine 87 (69 bs) and Matt Spells finishing 81*, passing 800 runs in all comps in so doing. However, also on the final day second-place Heaton Mersey go to Middlewich, knowing a win will ensure a promotion which would end their 12-season sojourn in and around the CCL and Div 3. Mersey produced a statement 214-run win over Warrington and although stranger things have happened, it would take something unforeseeable to prevent them getting the job done at Haddon Field. A mention for Barrow who were 13-4 chasing 312 at Runcorn before producing a heartening recovery which saw them eventually total 264 in a wonderfully entertaining afternoon, in total contrast to Winnington Park's nail-biting 1 wkt win at BSM chasing 114.

1ST XI PREM		
TEAM	PTS	MONTH
NANTWICH	351	20
CHEADLE	345	20
DIDSBURY	337	20
HYDE	331	6
LINDOW	316	5
CHESTER BH	259	20
TIMPERLEY	249	20
ALDERLEY EDGE	241	4
OXTON	233	20
NESTON	211	8
BRAMHALL	165	4
BROOKLANDS	129	6

1ST XI DIV 1		
TEAM	PTS	MONTH
BOLLINGTON	357	20
WIDNES	332	4
MARITIME	309	20
SALE	265	20
TOFT	262	5
S.GEORGIANS	244	20
MACCLESFIELD	239	20
BOWDON	220	20
PORT SUNLIGHT	218	4
MARPLE	216	5
ALVANLEY	161	1
URMSTON	128	0

1ST XI DIV 2		
TEAM	PTS	MONTH
UPTON	310	3
HASLINGTON	303	20
DAVENHAM	291	20
OULTON PARK	263	6
ROMILEY	250	20
TATTENHALL	249	5
OAKMERE	245	20
CHEADLE HULME	239	20
N.E.CHESHIRE	235	5
CHRISTLETON	206	20
GRAPPENHALL	192	1
ASHLEY	166	6

1ST XI DIV 3		
TEAM	PTS	MONTH
ASHTON OM	337	6
HEATON MERSEY	321	20
HALE BARNES	319	20
WINNINGTON PARK	279	20
BREDBURY SM	278	6
RUNCORN	247	20
STOCKPORT	239	20
IRBY	234	20
WARRINGTON	227	2
BARROW	219	7
MIDDLEWICH	149	4
MOBBERLEY	115	7

2ND XI PREM	
TEAM	PTS
DIDSBURY	328
BROOKLANDS	320
OXTON	290
CHESTER BH	284
TOFT	280
CHEADLE	271
NANTWICH	235
LINDOW	209
UPTON	204
TIMPERLEY	201
WIDNES	174
NESTON	174

2ND XI DIV 1	
TOP & BOTTOM	PTS
1. MARPLE	355
2. MARITIME	328
3. S.GEORGIANS	291
11. A.EDGE	183
12. ROMILEY	164



2ND XI DIV 2	
TOP & BOTTOM	PTS
1. GRAPPENHALL	333
2. WARRINGTON	311
3. UPTON 3	295
11. HASLINGTON	146
12. ASHLEY	89

2ND XI DIV 3	
TOP & BOTTOM	PTS
1. N.E.CHESHIRE	364
2. TIMPERLEY 3	299
3. BOLLINGTON	279
11. OXTON 3	216
12. NORTHWICH	36

3RD XI SUN PREM	
TEAM	PTS
DIDSBURY	285
S.GEORGIANS	256
BROOKLANDS	237
MARPLE/COMPS.	216
SALE	212
TIMPERLEY	188
TOFT	175
NANTWICH	163
HYDE	154
ASHLEY	105

3RD XI SUN DIV 1	
TOP & BOTTOM	PTS
CHEADLE	294
ELWORTH	259
HEATON MERSEY	138
RUNCORN	75

3RD XI SUN DIV 2	
TOP & BOTTOM	PTS
BREDBURY SM	287
DIDSBURY 5	281
S.TRINITY	159
DAVENHAM	81

SUN 3RD XI OTHER DIVISIONS

Div 3 East: Top - Lindow
2nd - Bollington

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

Div 4: Top - Styal
2nd - Cheadle 4



WEEK 21 2ND & 3RD XI CRICKET

2ND XI CRICKET: Didsbury now know that one more win will enable them to retain their **Prem** crown, their bowlers digging them out of a hole at Timperley to secure a tense 16 run win. Dids stumbled to just 143 at Stockport Rd having been put in and reaching 118-3 before subsiding alarmingly. Thankfully for them, Dids' bowlers quickly established hegemony, Michael Taylor claiming 5-27 as Timpers managed just 127. Consolation for the hosts was that their Prem status was assured after the meeting of the bottom two at Beaconsfield Rd resulted in a 7 wkt win for Neston over Widnes (Jake Christley starring with 3-21 & 48), but with Upton producing a sensational bowling display to dismiss Chester BH for just 96 - four wkts apiece for Sol Turner and Rich Battersby - to win by 18 runs, it meant Upton and Timperley survived at the expense of both Neston and Widnes. After both narrowly avoided the drop last season, they were unable to repeat that escape act this time round. Elsewhere Finn Dean hit a magnificent 150* (164 bs) for Oxton as they beat Lindow by 24 runs in a high-scoring game, while it was the polar opposite at Kingsway as Nantwich were bowled out for a paltry 74, Cheadle winning by 6 wkts. Brooklands knocked off 136 to beat Toft by 6 wkts and secure second place, an excellent achievement for a side that finished seventh in 2025.

In **Div 1** Marple sewed up the title with a five wkt win at neighbours Romiley, crowning an impressive turnaround by James Hirst's side, who narrowly avoided relegation in 2025 but have dominated the division, going top after week six and staying there. Maritime will be joining them in the Prem after winning a thriller at Sale by 1 wkt, the hosts climbing from 6-4 to post 164, Maritime on the ropes at 137-8 but inching over the line to claim a well-deserved ascension, having been in the top three all season. Stockport Georgians lost at home to Hyde to end their faint hopes of catching Maritime, while in the crucial game at the foot, Bowdon leapfrogged A.Edge with a 5 wkt win, meaning AE and Romiley look set for an immediate return to Div 2.

In **Div 2**, despite defeat at Winnington Park, Grappenhall got enough pts to confirm the title as second-place Warrington were beaten by Upton. The 65-run win for the Wirral side kept their slim promotion hopes alive, Urmston likewise after their comfortable 8 wkt win over H.Mersey, but Warrington need just five pts to ensure a second-place finish, and with their last game away at bottom side Ashley (thrashed at AOM by 167 runs yesterday, Joe Gadsby making 92 and Sam Thoburn 99 for the hosts), that requirement would appear to be well within range. Upton host P.Sunlight (for whom Wayne Greve made 115 in their big win over C.Hulme) and Urmston travel to Haslington, both sides waiting to pounce on any Warrington slip-ups.

Champions N.E.Cheshire rounded off their home fixtures with a squeaky 4 wkt win chasing just 101 set by H.Barns, but the big news in **Div 3** was the crushing win for Timperley 3s at Runcorn - Jordan Ruff making 105 in Timpers' massive 340-8 before the hosts were all out 136 - and defeat for third-place Bollington by just 15 runs at Tattenhall. Those results left Timpers needing just a point next week to ensure promotion, but Tattenhall also did themselves a favour as those precious 20 pts pulled them out of the drop zone at the expense of Oxton, who were hammered by CBH 3s (for whom Dave Henson made a superb 134). Oxton are thus two pts adrift and leaves Tatt firm favourites to stay up - their last game is away at doomed Northwich.

3rd XI League News Didsbury won the **Premier Division** after a 7 wkt win at relegated Ashley, who were bowled out for just 61. After losing to title rivals Brooklands, Dids won six on the bounce (plus one abandoned) to retain their title, do the 'double', and make it a ninth championship in the last 14 seasons. The only side that could have overtaken Dids, Stockport Georgians, lost at home to Hyde, a result which did Hyde's survival hopes a power of good. Second-bottom, Hyde have two games remaining, with the match against third-bottom Nantwich next Sun a crucial one, as that win at Flowery Field cut the gap between the clubs to nine pts, and it will be Nantwich's final match of 2026 - Hyde then take on Marple on Sat 19th. The other significant Sunday action saw Stockport Trinity finish in the drop zone in **Div 2** after Georgians 4s took 6 pts from a cancelled game, and Lindow 5s won the **Div 3 East** title after thrashing Timperley 6s by 10 wkts.

CHESHIRE CUP FINAL 2026

HYDE TRIUMPH ON HOME TURF

Sept 6: *Werneth Low:*

HYDE 252-7 (40 os) beat BOLLINGTON 194 (36.1 os) by 58 runs

Hyde celebrated a fourth Cheshire Cup Final triumph in the last 10 years as they won out comfortably in the end against a valiant Bollington side crowned as Div 1 champions the day before.

Bollington brought a large contingent of travelling support which, along with plenty of backing for the home side, made for a vibrant and colourful atmosphere as the match got underway on time despite morning rain. Bolly's decision to bowl first paid immediate dividends with Hyde quickly 13-2, but Luke Young (78 off 96) and Coby Fitzsimmons (58 off 54) built a fine third wkt stand of 117 before the Australian was bowled attempting a pull. More jubilation followed for Bolly when Andrew Jackson fell to a good catch at backward point for just 8, with Young dismissed the over after. Hyde reached 200 but lost two in two to be 201-7 with 4.3 os remaining, but then a key interlude as James Chew joined Dave Fitzsimmons. Perhaps more thought of as a bowler, Chew banished memories of an unhappy 2024 Final for himself as he launched three successive, handsome sixes in the penultimate over - and another in the last - 36 runs plundered off the final two overs, leaving

Hyde sitting pretty and Bolly contemplating 6.35 rpo. Jackson then tore in to strike an early blow, bowling his counterpart Rick Hough in the fifth over, Bolly's prolific opening pair separated early. Although their main man Andrej Yaksender hit some felicitous drives, scoring was never straightforward and when Yaksender was undone by a pacy, skidding delivery from MotM Young, it felt defining. Despite some aggressive blows by Tyran Liddiard and a late show of aggression from a hitherto passive Cam Smail, the already steep rate climbed relentlessly, with the steady loss of wickets the inevitable outcome.



Key moments: (above) skipper bowls skipper as Andrew Jackson strikes; (below) a despondent Andrej Yaksender departs as Hyde celebrate a major moment in the match.

