

VIVIO CHESHIRE COUNTY CRICKET LEAGUE

January, 2013 Newsletter

Chester telecom company League's new main sponsors

CHESTER-based company VIVIO, a top UK independent business to business telecommunications dealer, were revealed as the League's new main sponsor at the annual meeting on Wednesday, January 23.

A packed house of full and associate member clubs at Bowdon heard Secretary Geoff Wellsted report that a deal had been agreed with Vivio, who will replace Chapel Press, the League's principal backers for the past four years.

More details will emerge as the 2013 season approaches, but the League will henceforth be known as the Vivio Cheshire County League and all clubs are asked to include this title in their publicity and correspondence.

The League now have a total of six sponsors: **VIVIO** (main), **RedInsure** (T20), **Reader's** (Cricket balls), **TailorMade Group** (Over 40s), **Canterbury Sports** (Monthly performance awards) and new handbook printers **Delmar Press**.

Ian Brown is new President

In other major changes to emerge from the AGM followed by the January management meeting, former Cheadle Hulme chairman and current Cheshire and England Over 60s batsman Ian Brown was installed as President in succession to Stan Davies; Brian Boys becomes Vice chairman to replace John Bygate, who continues as Grounds chairman and on an enlarged group organising the Presentation Dinner. Chester Boughton Hall and Cheshire batsman Lee Dixon fills a vacancy on the Cricket Committee, with Duncan Anderson and Andy Newton re-elected. All other officers were returned

O Mike Carswell was elected Junior section chairman in succession to Hash Maitra.

O A profit on the year was reported of £4,626, raising current reserves to £50,343

O The 1st XI RedInsure T20 was revamped to exclude the Plate.

O Minor changes were agreed to the bonus, tie and draw points system.

O Qualifications to play in Sunday 3rd XI cricket were relaxed.

O Action will no longer be taken against clubs who have breached match regs. which involve possible points deductions when they come to light after October 31 that season.

O Fines for non-attendance at the Presentation dinner were increased.

O Former England and Surrey captain Alec Stewart was named as the 2013 guest Dinner speaker at The Mere on Friday, October 4.

Further news about the January management and AGM appear later in this *Newsletter*

Treasurer to stand down

Since the AGM, Treasurer Andy Woods has indicated that he wishes to step down due to pressure of work at his Chester accountancy firm and private life issues. He will continue until a suitable successor is found.

Chairman David Humpage has issued the following statement through the *Newsletter*: "The position of League Treasurer requires a person with knowledge of book-keeping and accountancy, who must have access to a computer and e-mail. The work should average out at no more than 2-3 hours a week over the year. Anyone interested in volunteering is invited to contact myself".

The Chairman's contact details are: tels. 0161 432 4670 (h); 01352 751 805 (w) or by e-mail on d.humpage7@ntlworld.com or DavidHumpage@FGWhitley.co.uk.

DEATH OF STEPHEN McGENITY, 30

THE death occurred in Walton Hospital, Liverpool on Saturday of Stephen McGenity, aged 30, who played regularly in the ECB Premier League for Oxtun in 2011 and 2012.

Stephen suffered a brain haemorrhage on Friday and was taken to Arrowe Park Hospital, Birkenhead where he was placed in an induced coma before being transferred to Walton for specialist treatment, but never recovered.

Married to Roxanne and with three children, Alfie, Stephen and Mae, he played 19 games for Oxtun last season scoring 202 runs, but planned to return to his former club Birkenhead St. Mary's in 2013 to join his father, Billy, who is club captain there.

RedInsure T20 revamped

FOLLOWING a strong vote of approval at the January management meeting, the 1st XI RedInsure T20 is to be revamped with clubs involved in a round robin competition leading to quarter-finals and a Finals Day at Timperley. The Plate is scrapped.

It is as uncertain whether all clubs wish to enter in 2013 and they are given until Thursday, January 31 to opt out.. Those unwilling to take part must contact Competition secretary Mike Talbot-Butler on or before that date otherwise they will be confirmed in the draw below.

Clubs have been placed into nine groups of four through seeding and regional criteria. The top nine clubs in last season's ECB Premiership final table are seeded 1-9 in different groups. The remaining clubs are allocated to groups through a regional based draw.

The teams in each group will play three games with each guaranteed at least one at home. This will enable fixtures to be spread over six weeks so there need be only nine games each Thursday for which umpires are required. Games will be on fixed dates, normally Thursdays from early May to mid-June. Games in the group stages may be played on a different night by prior agreement and Toft have indicated they wish their home game(s) to be on a Tuesday..

The winners of groups 1-7 will go through to the quarter-finals knock out stage. The winners of groups 8 and 9 will play-off by June 30 to decide the last quarter-final place. The quarter-finals will be played by mid-July, also on set dates with two games on each of the first two weeks in July.

Another change to the rules involves additional fielding restrictions. For the first six overs of all innings, only two fielders (apart from the bowler and wicket-keeper) will be allowed outside the 30 yard circle at the time of delivery.

Groupings (*dependant upon all clubs entering*)

Group 1: NANTWICH, Oulton Park, Middlewich, Congleton

Group 2: Hyde, Bredbury, Cheadle, Stockport Georgians

Group 3: CHESTER, Grappenhall, Davenham, Warrington

Group 4: MACCLESFIELD, Toft, Bollington, Bramhall

Group 5: MARPLE, Bowdon, Heaton Mersey, Timperley.

Group 6: OXTON, Widnes, Alvanley, Irby

Group 7: ALDERLEY EDGE, Sale, Poynton, Brooklands.

Group 8: DIDSbury, Urmston, Cheadle Hulme, Stockport

Group 9: NESTON, Christleton, Weaverhan, Tattenhall

Group stage fixtures (*yet to be produced*)

Thursday, May 9: first games in groups 1,3,5,7 and 9 (10 games)

Thursday, May 16: first games in groups 2,4,6 and 8 (8 games)

Thursday, May 23: second round of games (10 games)

Thursday, May 30: second round of games (8 games)

Thursday, June 6: third round of games (10 games)

Thursday, June 13: third round of games (8 games).

Knock out stages

Thursday, June 27: quarter-finals Group 8 – 9 winners play-off

Thursday, July 4: first two quarter-finals

Thursday, July 11: second two quarter-finals

Thursday, July 18: reserve date

Finals date

The semi-finals and final will be played at Timperley on Sunday, July 28 (12 noon start). A separate draw to be made.

ECB t20

The winners will go forward to represent the League in the ECB National Club t20 Area finals on Sunday, August 11 to be played on the ground of the Timperley winners. Also involved will be the t20 champions of the Birmingham, North Wales and North Staffs. & South Cheshire Leagues.

The winners on August 11 enter the Regional final on Sunday, August 25 followed by the National Finals on a first class county ground on a September mid-week date yet to be approved.

Regulation & rule changes

BELOW is a precis of the rules and regulation changes agreed at the January management meeting which followed the AGM:

○ Clubs whose first two elevens are relegated from the League as part of the Cheshire Pyramid structure, who have other teams already participating in the League, will automatically be accepted as Associate members.

○ The following are now eligible to play Sunday 3rd XI cricket:

1. Any player up to the age of 21 who has appeared for his club's 2nd XI the previous Saturday;
2. Any player who has appeared for a Cheshire Alliance club's 2nd XI the previous Saturday;
3. Any player who has appeared in a Cheshire League club's 2nd XI the previous Saturday.

○ An appeal must be lodged with the Assistant secretary within seven days of a decision being made and a deposit of £50 (returnable if the appeal is won) submitted. The Assistant secretary will disclose to the respective parties the date on which the appeal is to be heard and offer each side the chance to make a written submission. Such documentation should be lodged with the Assistant secretary at least 24 hours prior to the hearing. The appeal will be heard by a sub group of the Cricket Committee and the appeal chairman will decide whether the sub group will only consider written submissions or whether he will allow interested parties to attend. The result of the appeal will be issued in writing and is final and binding. The same procedure will apply to appeals against disciplinary decisions.

○ Points changes.

1. In Premier League games, batting bonus points will henceforth be scored at 130, 160, 190 and 220 runs. In 100 overs games at 110, 140, 170, 200. In 90 overs games at 100, 120, 150, 180. Bowling points are unchanged.

2. In tied games, points allocated will be one more than the maximum draw points scored in that game.

3. Draw points regulation: for a team batting first in a drawn game: 3 pts. For a team batting second in a drawn game: 1 pt. In a drawn match where interruptions cause an uneven split of overs: 2 pts. each.

Explanatory notes: Maximum points available for a side batting first becomes 15; i.e. 8 batting points, 4 bowling points and 3 draw points. Maximum points for a team batting second in a losing draw is 9: taking 9 or 10 opposition wickets and gaining full batting points.

A win, whether batting first or second, having won the toss or not, is still worth 25 pts.

Splitting the draw points in games hit by rain means neither side is unfairly disadvantaged by rain.

These new rules provide more incentive for teams to bat first, give greater reward to teams that score most runs and less reward to teams who score fewer runs.

○ Artificial pitches may be used for senior league and cup games by agreement between the captains.

○ Clubs are expected to support the league dinner and must buy at least THREE tickets each year. Fines at the rate of current ticket price (currently £30) will be levied on any club failing to comply.

○ Clubs are expected to make every effort to ensure grounds are fit for play in the event of bad weather; this requirement to take precedence over other activities such as warm ups etc.

○ All breaches of Match and playing regs which involve potential points deductions, will not be considered after October 31 of that season. (i.e. there will be no more retrospective action taken the following season as in 2012).

○ Assistant secretary Tony Morris is to take on the responsibilities of registering Overseas; Overseas exempt and Contracted players and he will also deal with all transfer matters.. .

League's £4,626 profit

THE balance sheet approved at the AGM revealed that the League made a profit of £4,626 in 2012 compared with one of £4,797 in 2011. There are now total reserves of £50,343.

Overall income was £15,289, down from £16,360, this included sponsorship sources and donations of £5,729, club subs of £5,430 and fines of £3,865. Subs remain unchanged in 2013.

Expenditure totalled £10,563, down from £11,560.

Computer scoring 'way ahead'

CHAIRMAN David Humpage told the AGM he believed computerised scoring was the way ahead.

The experiment of introducing laptops into the ECB Premier League in 2012 had been a success after "a sticky start" with 11 of the 12 clubs operating it. Toft and the two promoted clubs would be using the technology in 2013.

He envisaged that the system might be in use throughout the League in the medium term, which would help eradicate much of the post-match paper work. Several clubs in lower divisions were already operating with laptops and he hoped this would spread.

On the field, his main complaint had been poor behaviour in the lower sections, especially in 3rd XI Sunday cricket, with two matches actually abandoned due to ill-mannered behaviour. This was unheard of – and he did not want any recurrence. He called upon captains and senior players to set a higher standard.

The sponsors were thanked for their financial help as were an efficient band of officers who had served the league well, including president Stan Davies who was standing down after two worthy years.

His successor, long-serving Cheadle Hulme player and official Ian Brown, well-known throughout the League having played in it since its foundation in 1975, would do an equally fine job for the next two years.

ECB strategy

The ECB had adopted a national club strategy, the purpose to be outlined at a number of meetings throughout the country in February. The essence was a bid to get more men and women involved in playing the game at a time when money – and grants from the top – were becoming scarcer.

Competition secretary Mike Talbot-Butler appealed for the co-operation of clubs who had not yet supplied lists of officers for the handbook. There were 11 full members and still 14 associates who needed to comply ASAP.

All 2013 fixtures so far devised would be on Darren Sutcliffe's League website by the end of the week. Still to be posted were the RedInsure 1st XI Cup 2nd XI Cup, Over 40s and Sunday 3rd XI Divisions 3 and 4.

He invited clubs to offer advertisements for the handbook which was being produced by Delmar Press in an enlarged A4 size.

Andy Margeson, the League and Cheshire Cricket Board Welfare Officer gave an address stressing the importance of all clubs meeting their CRB responsibilities. Although he believed League clubs were toeing the line, he stressed the penalties involved in failure to get the right people signed up included loss of Clubmark and thus demotion.

Umpires and Scorers Association chairman Ian Greensmith said the panel was likely to be stronger in 2013 with the promotion of several well qualified umpires from the Cheshire League while David Gane was returning from the Central Lancashire League. There would also be losses, including Derick van Rensberg

The ECB ACO Northern area AGM had recently been held at Urmston who had provided excellent conditions for a record attendance of members.

'Attend dinner' appeal

John Bygate reported that former England and Surrey wicket keeper Alec Stewart would be the main guest speaker at the 2013 Presentation Dinner at The Mere on Friday, October 4. He appealed for better support as a loss of £1,987 had been incurred last year. when the attendance was down to 240 and five clubs had failed to attend. A committee of four involving himself, Andy Newton, Rob Sproston and Keith McGuffie would be running the event.

Junior section secretary David Vallance reported that all plans had been laid for the 2013 season and he looked forward to stronger leadership, with Mike Carswell in the chair. The end of season presentation evening had been dropped after a series of poor turn outs and in future prizes would be handed out after finals, or by arrangement at clubs' own prize nights. There would be an electronic version of the junior handbook in April as well as the usual booklet.

O Cheshire Under 15s knock out organiser Mike Tyerman issued an appeal for clubs to apply to enter next season's competition, as only eight had done so far. He set a limit date of February 28 for clubs to contact him

Umpires' 2013 meeting dates

THE pre-season meeting of the League Umpires & Scorers Association is at Timperley on Wednesday, April 17.

This is an important meeting for umpires as handbooks, match cards and other information will be available for the new season which begins three days later on Saturday, April 20.

Other meetings (all 8 p.m.): Mid-season: Monday, July 1 (at Toft)

End of season and hot pot supper: Wednesday, September 18 (at Sale).

Annual meeting: Wednesday, November 13 (at Toft)

O The annual meeting of the Cheshire Umpires & Scorers Association at Davenham on Monday, January 21 was postponed due to heavy snow in the area. It has been re-arranged for the same venue on Monday, February 4 (8 p.m.).

Promotion for Elworth and Alsager

ASSOCIATE members Elworth have been promoted to the premier division of the North-Staffs & South Cheshire League in 2013 after winning the First Division title.

Alsager, another of the League's Associate members, will be playing NS&SCL First Division cricket in 2013 following promotion.

'NATIONAL' DRAW

ELEVEN clubs from the Cheshire County League – one more than last season - have been admitted to the 2013

Kingfisher Beer Cup, formerly the National Club knock out

There is an entry of 256 clubs in 16 sections of 16 clubs, the group winners qualifying for a cash award.

The final is to be played on a county ground, probably Derbyshire CCC, on Sunday, September 15.

The League's only representatives in Group 5, **URMSTON**, enjoy a preliminary round (April 14) bye, then visit Northern League Chorley in round one on Sunday, April 28.

In Group 6, there are preliminary round byes for all six CCL clubs. In round one, **MARPLE** visit Astley and Tyldesley (Bolton League) or Wavertree (Liverpool Competition), **BOWDON** host another Competition club, Sefton, **BRAMHALL** travel to Bootle (LC), **OXTON** host Colwyn Bay (LC), **HYDE** go to Wallasey (LC) and **GRAPPEHALL** to Lancashire County Leaguers Roe Green.

Group 7 also sees preliminary byes for all four CCL entrants. In round one, **CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL** go to Birmingham League side Shrewsbury, reigning League champions **NANTWICH** go to Stone of the North Staffs & South Cheshire League, 2012 group winners **NESTON** host Moddershall (NS&SCL) or Whitchurch (Birmingham), and **ALDERLEY EDGE** host Derbyshire Premier League club, Dunstall – *see below*.

Round 2 is on May 12, round 3 on June 2, the group final on June 23, round 5 on July 14, quarter-finals on August 4 and the semis on September 1.

O Former League umpire Peter Ogden e-mails *Newsletter*: "I have had the pleasure of umpiring at Dunstall which is not far from Burton on Trent. I stood in the National knock out when former England and Derbyshire fast bowler Devon Malcolm was playing. He didn't bowl, but scored 98 not out and told me afterwards that one of his shots for which I signalled four was actually a six. He might have been right!"

33 enter 2nd XI Cup

HOLDERS Cheadle have been drawn at Congleton in the first round of next season's **2nd XI RedInsure T20 Trophy**, which features 33 clubs.

Cheadle Hulme are ineligible after forfeiting a first round game at Hyde in 2012, while Christleton and Tattenhall have opted out and Congleton, Irby and Stockport Georgians have opted back in.

There is one preliminary round game - Irby v Widnes – to be played by May 13.

Draw for first round (by May 27):

Stockport v Bramhall

Poynton v Stockport Georgians

Hyde v Heaton Mersey

Bredbury St. Mark's v Marple

Congleton v Cheadle

Alderley Edge v Sale

Bollington v Didsbury

Urmston v Macclesfield

Davenham v Alvanley

Irby or Widnes v Weaverham

Oxton v Neston

Chester Boughton Hall v Warrington

Nantwich v Oulton Park

Toft v Brooklands

Timperley v Middlewich

Grappenhall v Bowdon

Round 2 has to be played by July 1 and the quarter-finals by August 1. The semi-finals and final will be played on Finals Day on a date and at a venue yet to be agreed.

55 clubs in Cheshire Cup

ENTRIES for the Cheshire Cup have risen from 51 to 55 in 2013, including 30 from the County League.

In are Bunbury, Hawk Green, Irby, Mere, Stockport Trinity, Runcorn, Offerton and Weaverham. Missing this time are Bredbury St. Mark's, Chelford, Chester County Officers, Lindow and Poynton.

Clubs beaten in the first and second rounds will automatically enter the Shield, with a separate draw made.

Holder Chester Boughton Hall are among a group of ECB Premiership clubs exempted to round three when they will host Rode Park & Lawton or Ashton on Mersey.

The lower half of third round draw looks strong with Alderley Edge, Neston, Nantwich, Macclesfield, Bowdon, New Brighton, Elworth and Grappenhall all involved.

THE DRAW

First round (Sunday, April 26)

- A. Congleton v Wilmslow Wayfarers
- B. Stockport v Hawk Green
- C. Ashley v Hale Barns
- D. Runcorn v Itby
- E. Birkenhead St. Mary's v Sandbach
- F. Weaverham v Malpas

Second round (Sunday, May 5)

- 1. Stockport Trinity v Brooklands
- 2. Rode Park & Lawton v Ashton on Mersey
- 3. Winners of game B v Bollington
- 4. Romiley v Timperley
- 5. Urmston v Offerton
- 6. Cheadle Hulme v Sale
- 7. Winners of game A v Bramhall
- 8. Winners of game C v Cheadle
- 9. Heaton Mersey v Mere
- 10. Birkenhead Park v Tranmere Vics
- 11. Winners of game F v Oulton Park
- 12. Upton v Davenham
- 13. Northwich v Winners of game D
- 14., Caldby v Parkfield Liscard
- 15. Warrington v Bunbury
- 16. Winners of game E v Middlewich
- 17. Port Sunlight v Widnes

Third round (Sunday, May 26)

- Winners of game 11 v Winners of game 13
- Wallasey v Oxtan
- Winners of game 1 v Winners of game 13
- Winners of game 15 v Winners of game 10
- Winners of game 15 v Winners of game 20
- Winners of game 3 v Didsbury
- Chester Boughton Hall v Winners of game 2
- Hyde v Marple
- Winners of game 14 v Toft
- Winners of game 6 v Alderley Edge
- Winners of game 16 v Neston
- Nantwich v Winners of game 9
- Macclesfield v Bowdon
- Winners of game 8 v New Brighton
- Elworth v Grappenhall
- Winners of game 12 v Winners of game 7
- Winners of game 5 v Winners of game 4

Round 4 is on June 15; round 5 on July 24; semi-finals on August 4 and the final on September 1.

Shield dates: round 1 on June 16; round 2 on June 30; round 3 on July 24; semi-finals on August 11; final on August 25.

Rick Halkon becomes CDO

SALE leg-spinner Rick Halkon has joined the Cheshire Cricket Board staff as Development Officer responsible for the Stockport area. ECB Level 3 coach Rick will manage the Cheshire Girls Under 13 team and the Under 13 North squad in the Cheshire District Festival.

The long-time Sale leg-spinner says: "I have greatly enjoyed my work coaching at Sale, Lancashire and Manchester University and a chance to coach at elite level has always been an ambition".

Cheshire League AGM

THE newly-sponsored TACS Cheshire Cricket League held their AGM at Holmes Chapel on January 17 when Peter Davies was re-elected chairman and Brian Birtles secretary.

It was agreed that bowlers should be restricted to a maximum of 15 overs in 2nd XI cricket, while clubs will be awarded 25 points if they win a game after their opponents have conceded the toss, due to late arrival or shortage of players.

RIP

A POPULAR Poynton member for many years, ANDREW BERZINS died on December 11 aged 83

A great club stalwart, first as a player, then a coach and latterly as treasurer and trustee, Andy enjoyed every moment of his time at London Road, especially the company of friends in the bar after his playing days ended.

His last wish was that his body should be donated for scientific research and no funeral was held, although his family arranged a celebration of his life in the New Year.

Andy had two sons, one of whom was Tony, who played in both the 1st and 2nd XIs, while his son Tom is a current 1st XI regular.

The death occurred peacefully at Arrowe Park Hospital on December 19 of RONALD SMITHARD, a former well-known Wirral umpire and member of the Merseyside Cricket Umpires Association.

Ronald joined Upton on moving to the Wirral in the late 1970s. His funeral was held at Landican Central Chapel on January 2.

Cheshire fixtures in 2013

MINOR COUNTIES KNOCK-OUT CUP

Group 3 games (11 a.m.)

Sunday, April 21:	Herefordshire	Brockhampton
Sunday, May 5	Cambridgeshire	Tattenhall
Sunday, May 19	Cumberland	Kendal CC
Sunday, June 2	Northumberland	Hyde

Quarter-finals (11 a.m.)

Sunday, June 16	If Group 3 winners	home
	If Group 3 runners-up	away

Semi-finals (11 a.m.)

Sunday, July 14	provisional	
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Final (10.30 a.m.)

Wednesday, August 28	provisional	Wormsley
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MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP

Western division (11 a.m.)

Sunday – Tuesday, June 9 – 11	Oxfordshire	Great & Little Tew
Sunday – Tuesday, June 23 – 25	Wiltshire	Chester Boughton Hall
Sunday – Tuesday, July 7 – 9	Dorset	Bournemouth
Sunday – Tuesday, July 21 – 23	Berkshire	Finchampstead
Sunday – Tuesday, August 4 – 6	Devon	Bowdon
Sunday - Tuesday, August 18 - 20	Shropshire	Nantwich

Play-off final (10.30 a.m.)

Sunday – Wednesday, Sept. 8 – 11		Eastern champions
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CHESHIRE IN ECB 50+ COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Secretary-manager: Paul Freedman. Captain: Garry Cash (Marple).
All games start 1.30 p.m.

Friendlies

Wednesday, May 8	Staffs.	venue TBA
Wednesday, June 5	Shropshire	tba

Group games

Wednesday, May 15	Lancashire	Timperley
Wednesday, May 22	Notts	Away
Wednesday, June 12	Yorkshire	Chester Bo. Hall
Wednesday, June 19	Derbyshire	Away
Wednesday, July 3	Cumberland	Alderley Edge
Wednesday, July 10	Northumberland	Away
Thursday, July 11	Durham	Away

Play-offs

Last 16: Wednesday, July 27
Quarter-finals: Wednesday, August 11
Semi-finals: Wednesday, August 27.
Final: Sunday, September 8 venue TBA.

.... & IN SPITFIRE 60+ COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Manager / Captain: Andy Hurworth. All games start 1.30 p.m. Venues yet to be agreed

Tuesday, April 30	Yorkshire
Tuesday, May 7	Derbyshire
Tuesday, May 14	Shropshire
Tuesday, May 21	Durham & Northumberland
Tuesday, May 28	Lancashire
Tuesday, June 4	Yorkshire
Tuesday, June 11	Derbyshire
Tuesday, June 18	Shropshire
Tuesday, June 25	Durham & Northumberland
Tuesday, July 2	Lancashire

Play-off dates to be notified.

Kingsley lead Indoor League

THE Vale Royal Indoor League is down to four clubs for the 2012-13 season which runs from November to March, reports organiser Peter Robinson (e-mail: peteropcc@talktalk.net or tel. 07889 081 639.) Full details are available on line at valeroyal-icl.co.uk

Table up to the mid-winter break shows Kingsley leading with seven points from four games, followed by Tattenhall, four from two; Alvanley, three from one and Davenham, nil from three.

All games are played at St. Nicholas High School Sports Hall, Hartford, Northwich on Wednesday evenings, re-starting on January 28 and ending on March 11

Overseas player available

ANY club seeking a quality overseas player in 2013 might be interested in contacting Aditya Saha, a leg spinner and right hand batsman who hails from Kolkata. He has had previous UK experience in the Worcestershire county League with Wormelow, when he was the top all-rounder. To make contact and for a detailed cv, tap into adityasaha.2009@gmail.com

Newsletter reaches Hong Kong

THE League *Newsletter* reaches many countries throughout the globe, the latest being Hong Kong through former Warrington cricketer David Hunner, who receives his copy via Brian Boys.

Writes Dave: "I would like to say hullo to all those who may remember me at Warrington, where I used to play along side a very young Hugh De Prez and Paul Agar, also Ken Rothwell, Ian Fisher-Smith et al. I also remember Frank Crawley very well at my other clubs Crosfields, and Warrington New Town.

"I've been out here for some time and enjoy the life, but always look forward to trips home to and hope to be over in May".

David, whose memory even stretches to playing against the *Newsletter* Editor at Northwich in the 60s can be contacted on dhunter@richmondhk.com

Timperley's 'Zigger Zagger' makes headlines

VISITORS to Timperley's Stockport Road ground will have come across the unmistakable figure of Kenny Palin, who invariably strolls round the boundary offering advice and judgement on everything under the sun.

Kenny was the subject of a fascinating programme article by Brian Flynn when Altrincham played Gainsborough Trinity in Conference North recently at Moss Lane, Kenny's winter retreat.

Here are some excerpts:

"Kenny was born a couple of months after the end of the Second World War in October, 1945 and started watching Alty in 1966 when one of his earliest memories was seeing the great Jackie Swindells score seven goals in an 8-1 defeat of Chester Reserves in the Cheshire County League.

"He has been at all our famous cup games down the years, but is no slave to social mores, citing the former homes of Northwich Vics and Witton Albion at the Drill Field and Central Ground as two of his other favourite haunts.

"Kenny spends much time during the summer at nearby Timperley cricket where he has been a member for many years and knows all the players by first name

"One of our favourite memories of Kenny is from the Altrincham Festival Parade a few years ago when he walked the entire route over 90 minutes when everyone was pointing out one of our town's favourite sons. He waved them all back with his huge smile.

"Kenny will go down in history at this football club for his immortal rallying chant of 'Zigger Zagger, Zigger Zagger, Alt-rin-cham'. Long may he stay with us"

MTB writes: I had a word with Kenny, now aged 67, after I picked up the Gainsborough match programme and he told me he had been suffering from health problems in recent years, in fact he was still recovering from a cancer operation. Good news for all cricket fans, however, he will be at Timperley for the first match of the 2013 season ready with all his usual assertive comments. .

12 in President's Trophy

THE League Cricket Conference continue their President's Trophy inter-league competition in 2013 despite an entry of only 12 leagues.

Winners for the past three seasons, North Staffs & South-Cheshire Premier League, have a first round bye, then host Worcestershire County League or Staffordshire Championship in round .2.

Others entering are Derbyshire & Cheshire; Bristol & District; Northumberland & Tyneside; Bassetlaw & District; Durham County, Yorkshire & Derbyshire, Shropshire County, Notts Premier and North Yorks & South Durham.

Another look round the clubs

(up-dated where possible)

o ALDERLEY EDGE

Alan Day is again to lead the 1st XI in 2013, but his father Mike will no longer be seen in the score box and intends to watch next season's games as a "mere supporter", having also stepped down from the committee. Tom Wildig captains the 2nd XI.

New Alderley Edge cricket chairman is former hard-hitting 1st XI batsman Andy Fluck, who has worked wonders with the junior section in the past few years.

Rick Davis joins the committee as Team secretary and may restrict his umpiring duties to Sundays.

o ALVANLEY

Thirty-seven members are to stage a 20mile hike from Moel Famua to the club on March 17 in a bid to raise money for a new boundary fence.

Thanks to a local grant, Chester's Lee Dixon is being engaged for early season coaching in April.

Membership figures are healthy enough for a 4th XI to be formed for friendly matches with a view to joining the League Sunday set up in 2014.

There will be no changes in captaincy, with Andy Bennion, Dave Jones – with former Lancashire player Andy Hayhurst as his deputy - and Dave Summers respectively continuing. Bob Cunningham remains as president and Chris Fletcher serves his 10th season as chairman.

o BOLLINGTON

There are many changes at Bollington after relegation to Division 2. Gary Wood succeeds Colin Rowe who stands down as chairman after three years, while Rick Paterson continues as Secretary. Tom Barrass becomes 1st XI captain, Joe Binder leads the twos and Andy Pearce the thirds. Colin Rowe is to skipper Bollington Vets' Forties team. Muhammed Jahangir, who took 91 wickets in two seasons is returning to Hem Heath in the North Staffs. Premier League.

Bolly's successful link with Tamworth District Cricket Association in Australia is expected to see the registration of New South Wales under 19 batsman Blake Fitzgerald, who plays for St. George's in top Sydney grade cricket.

o BOWDON

Most senior posts remain unchanged at South Downs Road, including those of chairman Steve Murrills, secretary Andy Marshall and 1st team captain Garerhg Edwards. Richard Whipp becomes 2nd XI captain, while the 3rd XI captaincy remains open.

Bowdon's first winter signing is former South Downs Road paceman Chris Ashling, who has been on the Glamorgan staff. Chris has been circulating a strong internet opinion piece about "All that is wrong with Premier League cricket". Presumably he intends to seek changes from within.

o BRAMHALL

Not many changes at Bramhall with chairman Ian Milligan and secretary Andy Reynolds both re-elected while club stalwart Peter Babbage completes his term as president and hands over to former league umpire George Hill, who performs the same role at Trinity, newly-admitted to the Cheshire League. David Shoosmith replaces Norman Wooside as Juniors chairmjab .

On the field of play, Nick vantello, Chris Heppell, and Ian Milligan continue as 1st, 2nd and 3rd XI captains with Preyesh Patel teaming up with Peter Babbage as joint leader of the fourths.

Press secretary Luke Smith reports from Australia where he is playing in Melbourne grade cricket for Caulfield. Says Luke: "The weather here has been a bit variable and we recently had a rain washout. But since then we have had a huge rise in temperature".

o BREDBURY ST. MARK'S

The Hillside Road club celebrate their Centenary in 2013. Chairman Dave Downes and his re-elected committee are planning a major gala on the ground on May Bank Holiday Monday.

All officers and captains have been re-elected except Child Welfare Officer, a post which goes to Kath Robinson

o BROOKLANDS

Secretary Peter Belwood reports all is well off the field at Brooklands. Among those re-elected are chairman Jeff Marland, secretary Peter Belwood, treasurer Dave Garnett, League rep. Chris Moore, 1st to 3rd XI captains Dave Madden, Tom Mitchell and Andy Batty and Over 40s skipper Mel Brooke. Yet to be elected are the 4th XI captain and Child Welfare Officer

o CHEADLE

Most officers at Kingsway have been re-elected with Tony Brady continuing in the chair, Alison Ives as secretary and Paul Sperring 1st XI captain. Aaron Wall takes over the 2nd XI leadership and Richard Browne the 4th XI.

Treasurer Andrew Taylor and Paul Sperring are combining to write a definitive history of the club, back to its foundation in 1868. Record and handbooks have been loaned to help the duo trace details since the Kingsway club became League founder members in 1975.

o CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL

Steve Ogilby continues as 1st XI captain as CBH welcome back Lancashire batsman Jordan Clark, while all-rounder Ross Dixon arrives from Oxton to join his brother, Lee.

Graham Vernon undertakes a second year as chairman with Jon Legry continuing as secretary, while Dan Riley takes over the leadership of the 2nd XI.

Harry Killoran was named Player of the Year at the Cheshire Youth Cricket Dinner at Halton. He is enjoying winter trials with Derbyshire.

Former CBH paceman David Atkin has details of a West Indian all-rounder who would like to play in the league in 2013. He says: "On a recent trip to Antigua I played against Wilden Cornwall, a hard-hitting batsman who bowls quick and has played for Antigua and the Leewards. He want to play in the UK and take his coaching badges".

.Any club interested should contact wildencornwall@hotmail.com.

o CHRISTLETON

They're basking in reflected glory at Christleton following the success of 2012 Overseas player Varun Sood. The left-arm spinner, who took 44 League wickets and scored 490 runs before returning home early in August, claimed 3-43 including the scalps of centurion Ian Bell, Samit Patel and Joe Root when England lost to Delhi in a 50 overs warm up game at Delhi's Feroz Shah Kola stadium on January 8.

Brian Wareing says Sood was highly-rated for his cricket and coaching ability last summer and has kept in touch since returning to the sub-continent. "We are hoping he will return in 2013, but who knows after this?", says Brian.

Meanwhile, the club's hard-working groundsman laments that the Little Heath square has been under water for most of the winter and conditions will be affected there come the spring unless there is a long dry spell.

o CONGLETON

Tom Blease was appointed 1st XI captain in succession to Phil Nunn at the AGM, also taking on the dual posts of League rep. and Fixture secretary. Chairman Guy Baxendale adds the jobs of secretary and 2nd XI captain to his portfolio while Graeme Wolfenden becomes 3rd XI skipper.

JANUARY NEWSLETTER: 11

o DAVENHAM

One of the League's two welcome newcomers from the Cheshire League, Davenham will be led by chairman Bob Floyd, with John Shepherd continuing as secretary.

On the field at Butcher's Stile, Mark Greaves will captain the 1st XI and Andy Simmons the 2nd XI, while groundsman Martin Bentley - father of Louis - continues to run the Over 40s.

o DIDSBURY

Duncan Anderson and his son Nick continue as chairman and 1st XI captain respectively. All other senior posts are unchanged, with Dave Boorman becoming 3rd XI captain, while Tony Doyle leads Didsbury's newly formed 5th XI who will play home games at Sale Moor

o GRAPPENHALL

Back in the Premier League in 2013, Grappenhall will be skippered by former Lancashire all-rounder Richard Green. Mike Holden continues as 2nd XI skipper, with Rob Slater taking over the thirds. All senior officers have been re-elected

o HYDE

The Werneth Low club expect to have the services of two Minor Counties captains in 2013. Apart from their own James Duffy, they plan to register Wiltshire captain Joe Breet, who is coming to live in the Manchester where his wife will be working. Breet expects to continue playing for the southern county, one of whose away games in 2013 is at Chester. South-African-born Breet was second in the 2012 Minor Counties averages – behind only Macclesfield's Khalid Sawas – with 489 runs at 54.8 including two 50s and two 100s.

In a recent issue of *The Cricket Paper*, skipper Duffy looked forward to Breet's arrival and did not rule out the possibility of him playing for Cheshire.

Danny Berry and Scott Kirwin are playing grade cricket in Perth from December - March.

Hyde United's number one fan John Lofthouse is basking in the Algarve sunshine throughout January watching Portuguese football at every level

o IRBY

In his second spell with the club, former Birkenhead Park captain Martyn Smith, is to lead the 1st XI at Mill Hill Road in 2013. His wife, Lindsay is juniors chairman. Gareth Lea will lead the 2nd XI and Colin Gibson the Over 40s.

Rob Houghton who almost kept Irby in Division One last season with his outstanding all-round skills, has left to join Birkenhead Park, newly-promoted to the First Division of the Liverpool Competition.

o MACCLESFIELD

Work on demolishing the antiquated dressing rooms at Macclesfield will not be started until September, meaning that they will be ready for the start of the 2014 season. A grant of £50,000 has been obtained to enable the work to get past the planning stage.

Ben Morrison who was studying and living in London in 2012, becomes club captain in succession to Barney Cutbill who plans to devote himself more - but not exclusively - to family commitments.

Premiership Player of the Year Khalid Sawas has ignored lucrative offers to move and will stay at Victoria Road. Khalid is currently playing in Melbourne grade cricket with Spotswood. Teenage all-rounder Jack Ward is in New Zealand being coached at the Bracewell Academy and playing grade cricket at Napier.

Former Aussie overseas player Evan Gulbis is starring with Hobart Hurricanes in the garish Big Bash T20 playing in six of their eight games.

Another player from Melbourne is being lined up for 2013 and the club point out that his travel and accommodation will be funded entirely by donations and external sponsorship

o MARPLE

Senior officers and captains were all re-elected at a smooth AGM. Andy Greasley continues as chairman and David Baron as secretary, while Matt Shelton, Andy Wild, James Hirst, Andy Gichero and Simon Ashton carry on leading the 1st to 4th XIs and Over 40s.

Marple Press secretary - and BBC Philharmonicist - Mark Brook continues to produce interesting Newsletters.

o NESTON

Hugh Schofield has stepped down after 41 years as a leading administrator at Parkgate, latterly as league rep., a post he hands over to son Greg.

Nigel Hardern succeeds Richard Palmer as secretary, with Matt Wilson and Alan Millington elected to lead the 3rd and 4th XIs respectively. David Hurst continues to lead the firsts and Phil James the seconds.

Wicket-keeper Andy Roberts has joined Upton in the Cheshire Cricket League.

JANUARY NEWSLETTER: 12

o OULTON PARK

Star winter signing at Little Budworth sees the return of local man Louis Bentley after helping Nantwich to complete their hat-trick of titles in 2012. Bentley has been released by Lancashire and is no longer required to play Premier League cricket.

Danny Leech has been re-elected 1st XI captain with the objective of restoring the club's Premiership status. Damian Barton takes over the 2nd XI, otherwise all officers have been returned for a further year.

Park are to field a 3rd XI friendly team and are currently looking for Sunday fixtures. Clubs interested are invited to contact captain Andy Hards on 07826 405 834 or by e-mail at andrew.hards@barclays.com

o OXTON

There is quiet satisfaction with the work done at Townfield Lane in 2012, all the senior posts remaining unchanged at the AGM. Mark Cashin continues as chairman, while Phil Mathias adds the relatively easy task of league rep. to his work as secretary and fixture secretary. Graham Cashin and Ian Gauntlett carry on as 1st and 2nd XI captains, while Andy Taylor takes over the threes and John Mitchell leads the Over 40s.

Wicket-keeper Tom Marsland has joined Upton in the Cheshire Cricket League.

o POYNTON

Former chairman Mike Walton has been in Barbados where he watched Poynton's former overseas star Derwen Thompson playing for the island Police team alongside the more famous Collis King, now 61 but still hitting huge sixes. Wally would like to take a Poynton & District team to tour Barbados next close season if anyone is interested – contact him on multibondindustrial@yahoo.co.uk

Captain of the England Physical Disability team, Jamie Williams is to lead Poynton 1st XI next season, in succession to Paul Gould, who continues as a player.

Chris Oake captains the 2nd XI while Brian Kingham remains chairman and John Marsden secretary.

Damien Stringer won three awards at the club dinner being named Player of the Year for both the 1st XI and Legends, going through the season without being dismissed in Over 40s games. He was also named Best All-rounder. Clubman of the Year was Steve McClean and Danny Williams Junior Player of the Year while the Roger Ellis Trophy for all-round club work went to Paul Gould.

o SALE

Sale Sports Club are in the process of appointing a new Coaching and Development Officer to succeed Rick Halkon. Rob Merga takes over as secretary from John O'Donnell, who becomes Ground chairman.

Steve Whiston has been appointed 1st XI captain, while South African all-rounder Calvin Flowers is lined up to return to Dane Road, this time as their Overseas registered player. Flowers has previously served as a professional in the Huddersfield and Central Lancashire Leagues.

Other important arrivals are those of Glossop opening bowler Jay Riley, who last season played for the Cheshire Development XI and former Stretford captain Tyrone Lawrence.

o STOCKPORT

Chairman Mike Short reports a virtual clean sheet of re-elections at the AGM, involving himself, Mark Green secretary, Freda Sellars treasurer. Danny Barber 1st XI captain and Danny Wilson 3rd XI captain. Rick Jones replaces Mark Willoughby as 2nd XI captain. Jamie Wilks takes over as Juniors organiser.

o TATTENHALL

New chairman at The Flacca is Alex Sandland. He succeeds Mel Dobson, who stands down after seven successful years at the helm.

Robin Mulvihill becomes 1st XI captain in succession to Kiwi Tom Hyslop, who will qualify as an Overseas exempt player in 2013, having lived in the UK for more than two years. Ollie Thompson becomes vice captain.

Tattenhall have purchased four superb new sight-screens following lively fund-raising events in the past 12 months. Skipper Mulvihill reports that two of the remaining four screens are beyond repair. However, one wooden framed screen is available on a give away basis and a four year old screen in decent condition will be sold to the right bidder. Contact him at robin.mulvihill@me.com

JANUARY NEWSLETTER: 13

o TIMPERLEY

Steven Bramhall has been re-elected 1st XI captain, but will face opposition for the gloves as wicket-keeper Pat Ashling is returning from Toft. Pat is currently playing in Tasmania for Lindisfarne alongside former Timperley overseas star Matt Wilkie and recently faced up to Test stars Ben Hilfenhaus, Tim Payne and Mark Cosgrove. Brothers Ian and Chris Grindley are staying at Stockport Road, while overseas all-rounder Matt Macquet (920 runs and 26 wickets) is returning.

Rick Page is to captain the 2nd XI with David Cain running the 3rd XI and Steve Jackson the Sunday XI.

Timperley's Sportsman's Dinner is to be held at the pavilion on Friday, February 8, when the guest speaker will be England Selector Geoff Miller, who has agreed to a Q&A session. Tickets are £30 or £280 for a table of 10. Applications to chairman Adam Horan: adamhoran1@hotmail.com

o TOFT

All officers were re-elected at the AGM, Nigel Muirhead continuing as chairman and Martin Roberts as secretary, with Toby Drummond, Paul Ashley and Martin Roberts re-elected as team captains, together with Dave Ward at the Over 40s helm.

Wicket-keeper Pat Roberts is returning from Oulton Park and successful overseas player Jake Hancock is to sign up for a second season.

Events planned for 2013 include a Quiz & Supper Evening with Geoff Miller on April 12, a Summer Ball over the week-end of June 28/29/30 and a Golf Day on July 12.

Senior sponsors UPA Associates have agreed a further three-year deal.

After the deteriorating quality of the pitch, extensive groundwork has been carried out and further work will be done before April, 2013.

Bar revenue and profit was up 20 per cent despite poor weather last summer

Young Player of the Year, Toft all-rounder Rob Jones, has been invited to remain at the Lancashire Academy for a second year. Robert hopes to continue playing regular club cricket. Also called up to serve at the Academy is Mark Drummond, son of the club captain.

Regular scorer Pat Sutton is to step down from 1st XI duties when lap top scoring is to be undertaken by her successor.

o URMSTON

Cheshire paceman Adam Syddall has been appointed 1st XI captain for 2013 when his aim is to achieve rapid promotion back to the Premier League for the ambitious Urmston club.

Signings are highly-rated Stretford father and son duo Chris and Calum Turner from nearby Lancashire County League club Stretford. Chris has opened the batting at Stretford for many years and last season scored 641 runs at 35.61, while Calum, 16, clipped 804 runs at 44.67 with a top score of 171. A pupil at Urmston Grammar School, he also played in Lancashire's ECB county championship-winning Under 15s team.

Rob Arnold continues as chairman with Nigel Maxfield taking over as secretary.

o WARRINGTON

Warrington are so satisfied with their team of officials that every one has been re-elected, the only change in handbook information being the addition of League rep. Brian Boys' new mobile telephone number.

Gary Muster thus continues as chairman, Jo Page secretary, Simon Batey treasurer and Richard Heaney, Ian Sleigh, Gary Musker, Mike Cornelia and Mans Naseem as captains of the five week-end teams and Mike Fagan-Hall as 40s skipper.

Division Two record-breaking Aussie paceman Kyle Adams (87 wickets) is expected to return .

o WEAVERHAM

The reigning Meller Braggins Cheshire League champions return to the League after a nine years absence with a new captain, former Northwich and Winnington Park left arm spinner Stuart Hayes taking over from Jon Lightfoot.

However, Jon retains the posts of Secretary, League rep. and Juniors organiser. One-time Northwich Victoria FC chairman Rod Stitch remains in the chair for the well-appointed Wallerscote Road club.

o WIDNES

Long-serving batsman Tim Wearden was named 2012 Player of the Year. Which is not surprising considering he scored 975 runs for the 1st XI, 2nd XI and Cheshire Over 50s and never missed a match . Tim also coached the Under 15s to win the *Liverpool Echo* Cup

Relegation was temporarily forgotten when a successful annual awards dinner was held at the clubhouse. Guest speaker was former Everton, Manchester City and England footballer Joe Royle, backed by superb sports impressionist Mike Langley.

Aussie batsman Scott Henry, who helped Widnes win the Division One title in 2011 with 824 runs, is playing for Sydney Sixers in the Big Bash T20 competition. He does so on the back of a magnificent unbeaten 207 for Cricket Australia Chairman's XI which helped the Sri Lanka tourists open their Down Under tour.

Come on you other clubs what's been happening in your neck of the woods?

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PLEASE DISPLAY THIS NEWSLETTER

Clubs are asked to display a copy of the January edition of the *Newsletter* to help inform members of League news and plans .

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A full list of club officers elected for the 2013 season is required for use in the Handbook. These should be submitted AS SOON AS POSSIBLE on the appropriate form available from MTB . A copy should go to League Secretary Geoff Wellstead. Ten clubs yet to do likewise are: Alderley Edge, Cheadle Hulme, Christleton, Heaton Mersey, Macclesfield, Middlewich, Nantwich, Poynton, Tattenhall and Timperley

:

Twelve Associate members' still to file are: Bowdon Vale, Caldy, Cheadle Hulme Ladybridge, Mobberley, New Brighton, Northwich, Ptestbury, Runcorn, Tranmere Vics, Wistaston Village, Woodford and Woodley.

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Anyone who wishes to submit an advertisement for use in the 2013 handbook should contact the undersigned.

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The pre-season meeting at which cricket balls, handbooks, result sheets and other information is distributed is at Warrington on Wednesday, April 10, followed by a Captains' Meeting.

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A reminder: the 2013 season begins on Saturday, April 20 and ends on Saturday / Sunday, September 14 / 15

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CM-J will be missed

A sad loss to cricket reporting is that of Christopher Martin-Jenkins, who died early in the New Year. Christopher was the League's guest speaker at the Cresta Court, Altrincham in October 1984, at a time when he was Editor of *The Cricketer* and his rich contribution to the evening's was warmly received by a capacity audience.

On learning that the League was unique in running the only section exclusively for Over 40s cricketers – a distinction which still holds to-day – he commissioned an article which was used in the December issue of his magazine.

On a personal note I consider he is already being sorely missed from the Test Match special commentary box. At a time when listeners are being assailed by the waffle of Henry Blofeld and the self-obsession of Geoffrey Boycott, CM-J's skilled presentation is sorely missed – and shows no signs of being replaced.

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NEXT ISSUE: LATE FEBRUARY / EARLY MARCH

Mike.t-b@virgin.net January 28, 2013.

