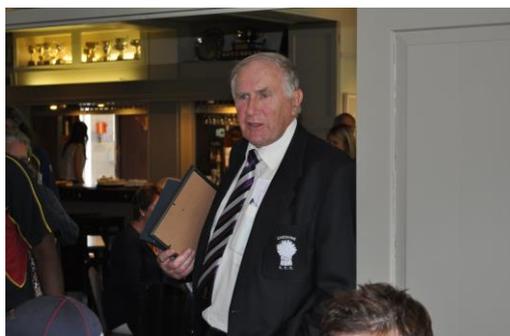




JANUARY, 2014 NEWSLETTER



Cheshire's John Pickup is awarded MBE

THE award of the MBE was bestowed upon Cheshire County Cricket Club President and League Patron John Pickup in the Queen's New Year Honours List. *(Picture by courtesy of Cheshire CCC).*

John, 74, who lives at Hartford with his wife, Jennifer, is rewarded for his outstanding voluntary service to recreational cricket in the UK, currently serves as chairman of the influential ECB Recreational Cricket Committee, based at Lord's

After being congratulated by *Newsletter*, John said: "I regard the award as recognition for the recreational game. I have been particularly fortunate that Cheshire cricket has been at the forefront, both on and off the field, in recent seasons".

At the November AGM of the Minor Counties Cricket Association when he was re-elected chairman, John was formally handed the championship trophy Cheshire had won by beating Cambridgeshire in the 2013 play-off.

John was County chairman at that time, being elevated to the presidency after an eight-year term in office, having since been to be succeeded by David Bailey.

John joined the county committee in 1978, being elected secretary in 1980 and going on to serve for the longest-ever period of 24 years until he became chairman.

He learned his playing and administrative skills at Northwich from the 50s – 70s, his captaincy, astute left arm swing bowling and secretarial duties earning him wide respect.

John was a leading solicitor in Northwich for most of his working life winding up as senior partner in the firm of Moss and Haselhurst,

GEOFF MILLER OBE Another major honour for cricket is the OBE bestowed upon Geoff Miller for services as National Selector during which time England enjoyed successive Ashes Test victories over Australia. A leading after-dinner speaker – he is the only man to have spoken twice at County League Dinners – Geoff was Cheshire's professional in the 1990s after retiring as a Derbyshire and England player and was subsequently made a Life Member

STUART CUMMINGS MBE. Warrington Sports Club are celebrating the MBE awarded to former wicket-keeper Stuart Cummings. Stuart earns his gong for services to Rugby League over many years, retiring last March as Match Officials Director. Nicknamed 'Scummo' by his very closest cricket colleagues at Walton Lea, Stuart refereed four Challenge Cup finals, two Super League Grand Finals and two World Cup finals, before becoming a referees' administrator. He now works as a consultant to the Rugby League.

Toft's Rob Jones in England U19 squad

TOFT leg-spinner and mid-order batsman Robert Jones has been named in a 15-strong England squad for the Under 19 World Cup in the UAE in February. Robert, who appeared regularly for Toft last season, is the only Lancashire player named by selector David Graveney in the squad which will take on their hosts in the opening match in Dubai on February 14. They then play Sri Lanka and New Zealand in other group games

More Overseas players eligible

A NEW category of Ordinarily Resident Overseas player will be eligible to figure in the League next season, following a vote of approval at the January management meeting at Bowdon on Tuesday, January 21.

The new rule will allow a player to be registered who is not qualified to play for England under current ECB regulations, but who holds a tier 1 visa (high valued migrant); tier 2 visa (skilled worker) or tier 4 visa (adult student) or anyone who is an EEC national. Such applicants must also have been resident in the UK for up to 180 days (six months) immediately prior to playing his first match and not been out of the UK for more than 21 days during that time.

Clubs are responsible for obtaining copies of passports with relevant visas with evidence proving residency to satisfy themselves that these players are eligible. This proof does not need to be submitted to Tony Morris when lodging a registration application

REDINSURE T20 REVISIONS

THE new format adopted for the RedInsure T20 in 2013 is to be continued - with modifications.

In the event of bad weather in the later rounds, quarter-final games will be allocated default days which can be varied on a mutual basis with the sanction of the Competition Secretary. Group games cannot be re-arranged after Friday, May 9, a week before the competition starts. From the quarter-finals onwards if the scores are tied, a Golden Over is to be introduced.

The draw has been made involving 32 clubs in eight geographical groups of four excluding Bowdon, Christleton, Heaton Mersey and Weaverham, who all conceded fixtures in 2013.

The seeded clubs in the groups are those who finished in the top eight of the ECB Premier League namely: Chester Boughton Hall with Neston, Hyde, Alderley Edge, Oxton, Grappenhall, Toft and Nantwich.

All group games will be played on Thursdays from May 15 – June 26, with quarter-finals on July 10. A new draw will be made prior to Finals Day at Upton on Sunday, July 27.

THIRD XI SHAKE-UP GOES AHEAD

MAJOR proposals for changes to Sunday Third XI cricket were approved.

Division One cricket – renamed the Premier Division - remains unchanged – and although overs per bowler are restricted to 12. .

The remaining 50 teams operating in Sunday cricket are being placed in two western and three eastern geographical divisions according to their finishing positions in 2013.

To reduce travel time and to encourage participation of younger players, the duration of matches to be 80 overs with a 10 overs restriction per bowler. The draw is retained in a revised scoring system. .Promotion and relegation is retained

NO POINTS CHANGES

A PROPOSAL by Urmston and Nantwich to introduce changes to the points system was defeated.

FIVE NEW ASSOCIATES

APPLICATIONS for associate membership to play in the Sunday divisions from Cheadle Hulme Ladybridge, Haslington, Sandbach, Stockport Trinity and Trafford MV were all approved.

Second XI Cup draw

HOLDERS Toft have been drawn at home to Brooklands in the first round of the 2nd XI Red Insure Trophy.

A total of 33 clubs will be taking part: Heaton Mersey and Poynton are ruled out due to 2013 forfeitures, while Christleton have opted out and Tattenhall have returned.

Preliminary round (by Monday, May 12): Congleton v Hyde.

First round (by Monday, May 26): Congleton or Hyde v Bredbury; Cheadle Hulme v Didsbury; Bowdon v Stockport; Timperley v Urmston; Alderley Edge v Marple; Macclesfield v Cheadle; Bramhall v Sale; Toft v Brooklands; Widnes v Oulton Park; Oxton v Nantwich; Upton v Grappenhall; Warrington v Irby; Davenham v Chester Boughton Hall; Tattenhall v Middlewich; Weaverham v Neston; Northwich v Alvanley.

Round 2 has to be played by Monday, June 30 and the quarterfinals by Monday, July 28. Finals Day is on a date and venue yet to be finalised.

37 teams in Jack Gardner 3rd XI Trophy

THERE will be 37 clubs competing for the Jack Gardner 3rd XI T20 Trophy in 2014.

Newcomers are Didsbury 5, Haslington and Stockport Trinity, while Alderley Edge and Poynton are ruled out following forfeitures in 2013.

There will be three geographical regions with five groups in the East zone two in Central and three in West.

Mini group games are scheduled for Sundays, April 20 and 27 and Bank Holiday Monday, May 5.

The preliminary knock out round has to be completed by June 16 and the quarter-finals by July 21.

A ground has not yet been chosen to stage Finals Day.

The 1st, 2nd, 3rd XI League and Over 40s fixtures, plus the 1st and 2nd XI RedInsure Trophy and Jack Gardner 3rd XI Trophy draws can all be found on the League website.

League lost £1,965, but ...

AFTER enjoying a £4,626 surplus in 2012, the League balance sheet for 2013 presented by new treasurer Matt Beckley at the AGM showed a loss of £1,965. He pointed out, however, that net reserves of £48,378 remained satisfactory. He also reported that £3,000 had received in a late payment from the ECB since the accounts were finalised

Income rose from £15,289 to £18,174 largely due to sponsorship donations increasing to £8,000 and subs were up to £6,242, while fines amounted to £3,660.

On the other hand, expenditure items which showed significant rises were the net cost of handbook (£1,944); films and coaching costs (£1,200); cricket balls (£6,661), representative and final cup days (£2,612), engraving and plaques etc. (£2,354). A loss of £1,622 on the Presentation Dinner had also been incurred.

It was agreed to leave subscriptions unchanged .

Several clubs remarked on the League's high cash reserves and felt more money should be ploughed back. Chairman David Humpage said that 12 free cricket balls had been given to each club in 2013 and it might be possible to do the same again. Other methods of helping clubs financially would be considered.

Secretary Geoff Wellsteed reported that agreements had been reached for all the major sponsors to continue in 2014, apart from TailorMade Group who had had withdrawn as backers of the Over 40s section. A replacement was being sought.

OFFICERS ELECTED

All senior officers were re-elected, namely: Chairman David Humpage; Deputy chairman and 2nd XI Results secretary Brian Boys; Secretary Geoff Wellsteed; Treasurer Matt Beckley; Competition Secretary and Handbook Editor Mike Talbot-Butler; 1st XI Result secretary Wyn Talbot-Butler; 3rd XI results Ian Sharrock and Peter Lawson; Assistant secretary Tony Morris; Junior section chairman Mike Carswell; Junior secretary David Vallance; Website administrator Darren Sutcliffe.

Steve Murrills stepped down as auditor and no replacement was made at the meeting. .

A new member elected to the Cricket Committee was Cheadle captain Paul Sperring who replaces Chris Finegan. Andy Newton later indicated his wish to stand down and is succeeded by tco-opted Toft captain Toby Drummond. Other members are Duncan Anderson, Rob Arnold, Lee Dixon and John O'Donnell.

The single seat which Cheshire County Cricket Club have been entitled to on the management committee since the League was founded in 1975, has been discontinued following a vote to amend the Constitution

Also voted through

O WHERE only one non playing umpire is available, if he wishes, he should be used as a bowling end umpire throughout and thus become the sole judge of the fitness of the playing conditions.

O QUARTER-FINAL play-off games to be introduced in the Over 40s. These games to involve the group winners and runners-up, to provide the four clubs to contest Finals Day's play. This will be at Chester Boughton Hall on Late Summer Bank Holiday.

O ALL 1st XI clubs must post their League and Cup match line scores on the website by 10 p.m. on match days.

O IF any team concedes three matches in a season, the relevant Competition secretary shall seek assurance that the team can complete their remaining games. . If that team concedes further games, the Cricket Committee may vote to expel that team from the league.

O CLUBS to pay fines of £50 (1st XI) and £30 (2nd XI) for conceding scheduled cup games.

Cheshire UNICORNS' fixtures confirmed

CHESHIRE will be playing in the Unicorns Counties championship and the Unicorns Counties KO Trophy in 2014 following a change of name agreed at Lord's on December 10

The prefix Unicorns was adopted at their AGM by the Minor Counties Cricket Association – whose title is retained as the governing body - in the possible hope of attracting a national sponsor by 2015 when a T20 tournament is being considered.

Cheshire One-day Unicorns Ko Trophy home games in 2014 are against Cumberland at Neston on Sunday, May 11 and Lincolnshire at Bramhall on Sunday, June 25. Should Cheshire win their group the quarter-final is at Chester Boughton Hall.

Unicorns Counties championship (3-day) home games are: Cornwall at Alderley Edge from Sunday – Tuesday, June 22 – 24; Wales at Bowdon July 20 - 22; Oxfordshire at Nantwich August 17 – 19.

Cheshire Development XI are to meet Lancashire 2nd in home and away games early in the season. They will play at Emirates Old Trafford on Wednesday, April 23, then stage the return game on Thursday, May 25, provisionally at Sale where they scored a shock win against the Red Rose men last season.

DERMOT REEVE SPEAKS

FORMER England one day international star and Sussex captain Dermot Reeve will be the guest speaker at the League's 40th Presentation Dinner, on Friday, October 3rd this year.

The event will also sport a well known Welsh comedian Rod Woodward, with Urmston chairman Rob Arnold speaking on behalf of the league and his Nantwich counterpart Rob Sproston acting as MC.

The event will again be at The Mere, who have promised the league sole occupancy on the night at an unchanged price of £30.

Barry Burns to run Cheshire Cup

WELL-KNOWN League panel umpire Barrie Burns is to take over the running of the Cheshire Cup and Shield in 2014, succeeding former umpiring colleague Rick Davis who will be concentrating on his work as Alderley Edge match secretary.

Wirral-based Barrie has had to extend the closing date for entries to the popular county-wide competition because of a lack of entries by the original closing date on December 31. He now expects the draw to be made later in January..

Barrie will be continuing to serve on the umpires panel in 2014.

DEATH OF GRAHAM LESTER

FORMER Cheadle Hulme and Wythenshawe cricketer Graham Lester died on New Year's Eve, aged 69. His funeral was at Bramhall Methodist Church 17 days later.

A former England lacrosse international and later referee, Graham was involved in the launch of fourth XI cricket at Grove Park when he persuaded many old stalwarts to take the kit out of mothballs. Her only ever scored one half-century for the club, that innings containing 48 singles and a two, recalls former colleague Ian Brown, now League president.

A lecturer in accountancy at Manchester Metropolitan University, he was a well-known raconteur and apart from after-dinner appearances, he used to his keep his colleagues entertained with many fine stories on and off the sporting field.

Graham was married with two daughters and a son, Oliver, who played 1st XI cricket at Grove Park before moving to Nottingham.

....League cricket loses Bob Cherry

ONE of the best-known figures in northern league cricket, Bob Cherry has died at his home at Cotes Heath, near Stafford, aged 85.

Bob, who served as chairman of the League Cricket Conference for 20 years, founded the Kids Grove Junior League in 1962 and simultaneously served as secretary of the North Staffs. & District League for 25 years.

A former maths teacher, his funeral is at St. James's Parish Church, Newcastle Road, Cotes Heath on Tuesday, February 4 at 12 noon.

Andy Searle's history book

CHEADLE member Andy Searle launched his book on the 150 Years History of Lancashire CCC on the exact anniversary of the Red Rose club's foundation date, January 12, in the Long Room at Old Trafford.

Wicket-keeper Andy, who formerly played for Trafford V, is a well-known North-West journalist and author. His book can be obtained by contacting him by e-mail on andrew.searle2@btinternet.com or by telephone on 07812 398 303.

Umpires course @ Oakmere

AN ECB ACO LEVEL 1A Umpires course is to be held at Oakmere Cricket Club over two successive week-ends lasting 12 – 16 hours.

The course is entitled Understanding the Game and is open to all who have passed the Level 1 graded.

The dates are Saturday, February 22 and Saturday, March 1 from 9-30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. daily and the full cost of £35 per head.

For full details ring Geoff Young on 01352 755 881.

2014 UMPS' MEETING DATES

THE League Umpires & Scorers Association have announced their meeting dates for 2014 as follows:

Pre-season: at Timperley on Wednesday, April 16.

Mid-season: at Toft on Monday, June 30.

End of season & hot pot: at Sale on Wednesday, September 17.

AGM: at Toft on Wednesday, November 12. All 8 p.m. starts.

Umps Association AGM

CHESHIRE Umpires & Scorers Association AGM is to be held at Davenham Cricket Club on Monday, February 3 (8 p.m.).

Among officers up for re-election are chairman Ian Greensmith; secretary Tony Morris, treasurer Stuart Anderson and appointments co-ordinator Jon Hacking

Cricket Force dates

THE dates fixed for the 20th Cricket Force week-end are Saturday and Sunday, April 5 and 6.

This is when clubs expect members to turn out in big numbers for vital work in and around the grounds where they will be enjoying their cricket throughout next season.

Charity Challenge appeals

DIDSBURY batsman Philip Critchley tells the following story:

“In 2005 aged 22, my cricketing teammate George Pepper was diagnosed with MS while we were both playing for Pannall in the Niddersdale League at Harrogate.

“MS is the most commonly diagnosed neurological condition in people aged 20 – 40, but George found it hard to contact fellow sufferers, even online. This frustration led him to set up a website where sufferers could meet and share experiences. You can read more about his story at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/7965363.stm>. This registered charity now has more than 5,000 members worldwide.

“To help raise money to support George and his team. I am attempting to row 52 half marathons in 2014 aboard a Concept 2 rowing machine at level 10. I have already completed five of these, but only raised £65 out of a target of £2,000 despite much hard work and dedication.

“As a regular County League player I am hoping to make this charity known to a wider audience through the *Newsletter* and the Cheshire cricket community. I should like to appeal for help and follow up with new postings during the summer. Support from anyone would be greatly appreciated.”

Donations can be made at the following site: <http://www.justgiving.com/Philip-Critchley1>

FORMER Winnington Park wicket-keeper/ captain and now Nantwich second teamer Dave Hine plans to run for the Winsford-based NM Centre charity in the Virgin London Marathon on Sunday, April 13.

Says Dave: “I’m trying to help the struggle against muscular dystrophy. Nantwich 2nd XI scorer and ardent supporter Steve Bebe has this condition and has delegated me as his first choice representative (!). I hope to complete all 26 miles to help get fit for the cricket season which starts six days later and am looking to raise £1,000 for a very worthy cause. Please help me”.

Dave can be contacted on dkhine1@aol.com and the relevant website is virginmoneygiving.com/davidhine.

Club News from around the League

(with apologies for repeated December items)

ALDERLEY EDGE

Chairman Andy Fluck and all the senior officers are to continue, although secretary Kate Branagan would have stepped down if a successor had come forward..

League panel umpire and former Alderley Edge and Bramhall player Chris Smith is to captain the newly-constituted Third XI. Meanwhile, Chris soldiers on as Carlisle United's most-travelled (and optimistic) fan.

ALVANLEY

Chris Charles becomes 1st XI captain, with Jeremy Brummitt taking over the seconds and Mike Roberts the thirds.

Former Chester and Cheshire left-arm spinner Robin Fisher (e-mail address: armball@btinternet.com) becomes Secretary.

First winter signing is Mike Rowlands, a left hand batsman and leg spinner from Chester County Officers.

A 26 miles walk by 31 members raised funds for a new picket fence currently under construction which will extend round the pavilion area.

BOWDON

Top close-season capture is Timperley's outstanding wicket-keeper and batsman Pat Ashling, who joins his brother, fast bowler Chris at South Downs road.

The off-field team carries on with newly-retired Steve Murrills remaining in the chair, Andy Marshall secretary and Richard Malkin treasurer.

Gareth Edwards continues as 1st XI captain with Richard Whipp again leading the twos. Tom Jones takes over the thirds.

BRAMHALL'S NEW PRESIDENT

Chairman Ian Milligan and secretary Andy Reynolds have been re-elected, while Peter Babbage has completed his term as president and is succeeded by club stalwart and former panel umpire George Hill, who doubles up as president of new associates Stockport Trinity.

Nick Cantello, Chris Heppell and Ian Milligan serve on as leaders of the first, second and third XIs with Prayesh Patel joining Peter Babbage as joint 4th XI captain.

Top winter acquisition is Poynton's Paul Gould, who says he is keen to flex his batting skills in the Premiership.

Long-serving member of the Lancashire & Cheshire Cricket Society and Emirates Old Trafford grandee Barry Rickson has been elected chairman of the Council of Cricket Societies.

BREDBURY ST. MARK'S

Bredbury's outstanding all-rounder Chris Wood has retired with spinner Graham Barlow likely to do likewise while Overseas duo Peter Zybrands and Andy Hilder have returned to Oz.

No 1st XI captain has yet been appointed, with manager-coach Steve Amison named pro tem, while the remaining teams will be led by Daren Evans, Geoff Mountford and Paul Wilkinson.

The club have published a 'suggestive' 2014 calendar featuring a number of players entitled 'Bredbury St. Mark's ... all out'. Costing £5, copies can be obtained by contacting secretary Jan Amison on amibsmcc@hotmail.co.uk

CHEADLE

Chairman Tony Brady reports a list of unchanged officers. Paul Sperring remains club captain, but is being relieved of some admin duties to help reduce the rate of fines.

Simon Orton takes over the thirds, Mike Carswell becomes treasurer and Karen Bullen is the new Child Welfare Officer.

CHEADLE HULME

Adam Wilde carries his successful spell as 1st XI captain into a fourth season, with Phil Balderson taking over the twos and Howard Reid the fourths.

Mike Stewart remains chairman and Richard Battye is again secretary

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Club News continued ...

CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL

Cheshire left-hander Lee Dixon, back from a trip to watch the early Ashes games Down Under, takes over from treble-winner Steve Ogilby as 1st XI captain.

John Legry has been elected president in addition to his duties as secretary and fixture secretary.

In other administrative changes Jim Gillson becomes chairman and David Fisher is the new 3rd XI captain.

CHRISTLETON

ONE of the League's best all-rounders, Sri Lankan-born Iroshan De Silva is to captain his adopted club in succession to Guy Newell. New second skipper is Michael Gaynon with George Bryant taking the thirds.

While Mike Hollindale continues in the chair, Jacqui Gittins takes over the triple roles of secretary, fixture secretary and joint Child Welfare Officer.

CONGLETON

Paul Beaumont becomes 1st XI skipper succeeding Tom Blease with Alex French taking over the reins as secretary.

Guy Baxendale remains the key figure, occupying the posts of chairman and 2nd XI captain.

DAVENHAM

Bob Floyd continues in the chair at Butcher's Stile following the club's rapid promotion to Division One after their first season in the League. Mark Greaves continues as 1st XI captain, with Luke Cookson taking over the seconds.

Davenham have re-formed their Sunday friendly XI under Tom Hunt, who would like to be contacted about 2014 fixtures on tmkhunt@gmail.com

DIDSBURY

Duncan Anderson continues as chairman and his talented son Nick will again be 1st XI captain. All other captains also remain unchanged.

ALL GOES WELL AT GRAPPENHALL

Grappers are another club to show satisfaction with their current officers. Chairman Dave Nicholson leads an experienced band of volunteers at Broad Lane, the only change being new a 2nd XI captain in Matt Titchard.

Improvements will be evident around the ground in 2014 following the financial success of the England v Australia Legends match in July.

HYDE

New signings are Jason Whittaker (Alderley Edge), Khalid Sawas (Macclesfield) and Danny Williams (Poynton). Outgoings are Danny Cranmer, Tom Young and John Ashley all to Denton West while Tom Twiney has left the North-West to work – and play his cricket – elsewhere

All officers and captains have been re-elected with Paul Chorlton – now on the Cheshire county committee -continuing as chairman and Eileen Bowden secretary. Danny Berry again leads the 1st XI, while Rob Brierley becomes Juniors chairman.

HEATON MERSEY

Tim Humpage is the new Cricket chairman in succession to Colin Norbury.

Nicola Bennett has retired as secretary, but remains the League's only female president.

Joint secretaries have been appointed in Joe Ingham and Paresh Shah, while Tom Webb becomes treasurer as well as 3rd XI captain. Bobby Sachar continues as 1st XI skipper.

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Further club News

IRBY

After taking over the position last July, Gareth Lea has been confirmed as chairman in succession to Ben Thomas. Gareth continues as 2nd XI captain. As does Martyn Smith as 1st XI captain with Paul Smith and Roy Crawford running the third and fourth teams.

MARPLE

Multiple changes at Bowden Lane see England Over 60s all-rounder Chris Lees taking over as chairman from Andy Greasley, while Martin Poynter becomes treasurer and Lizzie Greasley joins Lizzie Reeve as joint Child Welfare Officer..

Mark Bennett becomes 1st XI captain in succession to Matt Shelton, with Andy Wild leading the twos, James Hirst the threes, Richard Major the fours and Paul Jones the Over 40s.

Gary Cash is now the undisputed highest run scorer in League history following the retirement from Saturday cricket of Peter Kingham at Poynton. The scorer of 218 Premier League runs last season hoisted Cashy's tally since 1977 to a massive 17,904. Kingham's tally is closed – barring a sudden change of heart – at 16,692 put together from 1985 – 2013.

MACCLESFIELD

Delegate Roger Moss told the League AGM that the roof was now on the new pavilion being constructed at the Victoria road ground. Progress had been slow in bad weather, but there were high hopes of an April completion.

MIDDLEWICH

Simon McGrory succeeds player Gavin Tomlinson as chairman, with Alex Gill becoming secretary.

James Cornford steps down as 1st XI captain in favour of Nick Gill, while Andy Tutt and Mike Boyle continue to lead the twos and threes respectively.

The 'Witch need to find another 1st XI scorer after Ray Davies decided to put away his crayons after a 20 years' stint in the scoreboard.

NESTON'S CLARKE STARS DOWN UNDER

Andy Clarke, whose all-round prowess (436 runs and 65 wickets) so nearly helped Neston win the Premiership last season, has been named in an MCC team to tour Malaysia and Singapore for two weeks in February. Andy will thus briefly interrupt his starring role with Swan Athletic in senior West Australia grade cricket. In back to back innings either side of Christmas, the former MCC Academy youngster scored 122 and 148 in searing heat of more than 100 degrees. Which gave him some ammunition to hit back at 'Winging Poms' jibes.

On the home front David Lewis continues as chairman and Nigel Hardern as secretary. David Hurst and Alan Millington are re-elected 1st and 4th XI captains respectively, while Mark Garrett and Owen Llewellyn take over the twos and threes. Other skippers have yet to be named.

NORTHWICH

New chairman at promoted Northwich is none other than Darren Sutcliffe, who has already made his mark in the League as Website administrator. Darren succeeds Peter James, whose son Simon occupies the key posts of Treasurer, Fixture secretary and 2nd XI captain.

Former Alderley Edge all-rounder Mark Walker remains 1st XI captain.

OULTON PARK

Cheshire batsman Rick Moore steps up to the 1st XI captaincy succeeding Danny Leech, who has played little cricket in the past two seasons due to work calls, but becomes vice chairman

Syd Williams stays in the chair, ably supported by secretary Su Ramsbottom. Andy Hards leads the Sunday Friendly XI.

OXTON

Simon Stokes continues to lead the 1st XI. All other captains – and officers – have been re-elected. A fine servant in recent seasons – especially during his captaincy– fast bowler Andy Birley has hung up his boots.

POYNTON

Brian Kingham was re-elected chairman and Over 40s captain at the AGM, with John Marsden continuing as secretary Jimmy Williams remains leader of the 1st XI.

Anyone who seeks an update on the busy Cheshire Women's Cricket scene will be well-served by Press secretary Martin Saxon whose excellent *Dazzler* winter issue contains up to date information on the 2014 format. It's available on martinsaxon2@gmail.com

SALE

There are multiple changes at Dane road, with Paul Battersby taking over from Matthew Millward as chairman and Ian Dixon becoming secretary. Keith Wellings moves up from the twos to captain the 1st XI with Richard Hampton taking over the seconds. Nick Brooks is now Juniors organiser, a key post at a club which pays so much attention to junior cricket.

STOCKPORT

Chairman at Cale Green is now Steve Allwright, who succeeds Mike Short. Danny Barber continues to lead the 1st XI.

TATTENHALL MAKING STRIDES

The well-organised south-Cheshire club made big strides on and off the field last year and render little change for 2014. Alex Sandland remains in the chair with Chris McEwen continuing as secretary, while Robin Mulvihill and Mark Sandford again lead the first and seconds and Cliff Nichols the Wreckers (Forties). Grant Howard takes over the thirds.

Tatters expect to recall Kiwi Dan Power as their Overseas player after his success last summer.

TIMPERLEY

Apart from Pat Ashling moving to Bowdon, last season's runaway Division 2 champions will be without Mike Stevens who has moved to live in London and Ian Grindley, who has retired. First replacement is wicket-keeper Mike Rudd from Warrington, while Matt Macquet returns as 'the Overseas' after scoring 1,791 runs and taking 88 wickets in 2012-13. Matt is currently playing for Nelson and Central Districts in New Zealand provincial cricket.

Adam Horan continues as chairman, Simon Thompson secretary and Dave Howarth treasurer, while Steve Bramhall soldiers on as 1st XI skipper. Rick Page leads the twos and Will Cross the thirds. Simon Spencer skippers the revived Forties,

Ashley are to share the second ground at Stockport Road after admission to Saturday 3rd XI Division Two.

New covers have been purchased for the front square, allowing the present repaired set to be moved over to pitch two.

The Sportsman's Dinner on Friday, February 7 will hear footballer Dean Saunders speak, with tickets priced at £30.

Chairman Horan says his club would be interested in buying any scoreboard tins which become available as clubs turn to the electronic variety. Contact him on adamhoran1@hotmail.com

TOFT

Re-elected chairman Nigel Muirhead – fit again after a shoulder operation - reports that roll-on covers are being purchased in line with League instructions. The artificial nets are being refurbished thanks to £3,000 funding from Manchester Airport Community Trust, while a BBQ area is being created and a new kit sponsor has been found for 2014-15.

Jake Hancock is returning as the overseas player for a third year, but Adam Carolan will not be absent in 2014

The chairman reports that the club had 170 junior registrations last season, seven represented Cheshire in all age groups, two attended the Lancashire Academy (Robert Jones and James Drummond), with Jones also chosen for the England Elite Development squad.

Simon Burley takes over from Martin Roberts as secretary, while John Reed continues as president, Toby Drummond as club captain and Paul Ashley leads the thirds.

Last of the Club News ...

UPTON

Popular President Harry Sharrock – 80 in December - is ready to lead the club back into the League after a triumphant 12 months in the TACS Cheshire League

Upton will sport a virtually new tea room for the first match in April Rob Chapman succeeds Malcolm Priaulx as secretary.

URMSTON

Chairman Rob Arnold was re-elected at the AGM together with all other officers, while Nicola Dillon succeeds Nicola Ranicar as Child Welfare Officer.

After helping Cheshire win the Minor Counties title, Adam Syddall will lead the 1st XI in the Premier League for the first time.

An initiative by chairman Arnold has resulted in the club forming a new Sunday 4th XI, which has been placed in East

WILDEN BACK AT WEAVERHAM

Re-elected skipper Stuart Hayes has made Congleton all-rounder Kevin Waterhouse his star winter signing.

Division 2 Player of the Year Wilden Cornwall has agreed to return from Antigua for a second season at Wallerscote Road. .

Former Northwich Vics FC chairman Rod Stitch remains in the chair with Jon Lightfoot continuing as secretary. The re-formed 3rd XI is to be led by Dave Ollier.

WARRINGTON

League record-breaking fast bowler Kyle Adams is returning to Walton Lea, despite overtures from elsewhere. He becomes 1st XI vice captain to support the re-elected Richard Heaney. Dave Lee has been appointed secretary and will also captain the 5th XI, while Simon Hewitt takes over the twos from the legendary Ian (Max) Sleigh. Tim Rothwell becomes Over 40s captain.

Large- scale pavilion improvements will be ready for the new season and will greatly impress all visitors – including the umpires.

WIDNES

Ian Spencer stands down after nine seasons as club captain, to be succeeded by Sean Moore. A fine wicket-keeper and former local amateur boxer, Ian has become the father of twins who are demanding more of his time

Evergreen batsman Tim Wearden continues as 2nd XI captain while Dominic Cain takes over from Barry McCurdy to lead the thirds.

The former captains were presented with mementoes at the Club Dinner by guest speaker Steve Kindon, the former Wolves and Burnley winger, who is an old boy of nearby Wade Deacon GS.

Steve Duckers stands down after five years as secretary and club representative on the League management and is succeeded by Andy Burns.

Widnes have become the first club to register an Overseas player for 2014; Melbourne left hand batsman and spinner William Ryan, aged 20.

**Further club news will be welcomed during the remainder
of the close season – especially from Brooklands and Nantwich**

New TACS Cheshire League chairman

NEW chairman of the TACS-sponsored Cheshire Cricket League elected at the AGM at Holmes Chapel on January 16 is Northwich-based Graham Coull, previously vice chairman. Graham succeeds Peter Davies, who steps down after 18 years' service.

IT expert Graham was responsible for producing the 2014 fixtures for both his own league and the County League.

Toft pavilion is damaged by storms

THE boisterous winter weather has caused damage on several league grounds, including Toft, where the branch of a large tree broke off and crashed through part of the pavilion roof.

This picture was submitted to *Newsletter* by Toft archivist Jeff Tenner, who reports that repairs have since taken place.



Still waiting

CLUBS yet to submit their lists of 2014 officers were follows up to January 302:

FULL MEMBERS (five): Brooklands, Macclesfield, Nantwich, Poynton, Timperley.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS (nine): Alsager Dabbers, Caldby, Mobberley, New Brighton, Prestbury, Runcorn, Winnington Park, plus two of the new associates Haslington and Trafford MV.

Information, preferably on the official form available, should be sent to MTB for use in the Handbook with a copy to League secretary Geoff Wellsted. Clubs should note that Geoff Wellsted has a new mobile telephone number: 07443 909 232. His home tel. remains 0151 625 6470.

Inquiries from clubs who may wish to advertise in the 2014 Handbook will be welcomed. The Handbook, together with cricket balls, results sheets and all other key information, will be available at the pre-season Management meeting at Warrington Sports Club on Wednesday, April 9.

The 2014 season opens on Saturday, April 19.

NEXT ISSUE OF NEWSLETTER: early-March

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