



## MARCH, 2014 NEWSLETTER

# Cheshire Cup entries drop to 46

ENTRIES for the **Cheshire Cup and Shield** next season are down by nine to 46 clubs, 27 of them from the County League.

New organiser Barrie Burns, the League panel umpire, was obliged to defer the closing date because entries were slow, but he has now circulated the draw. This reveals 14 games are to be played in round one as early as Sunday, May 4. This is followed by 16 ties in round two on Sunday, May 25, at which stage the Premiership clubs from the League and Liverpool Competition enter, plus exempted trio Congleton, Hale Barns and Oulton Park.

Clubs losing in the first round will go on to compete in the Cheshire Shield, the draw for which will be made after matches played on on May 4.

Cheshire Cup-holders Chester Boughton Hall host Disley or (more likely) demoted North Staffs & South Cheshire Leaguers Elworth in round two, on May 25. Bramhall, the 2013 Shield winners go to Toft in an all Premier League clash on round 2.

### **ROUND 1 DRAW (Sunday, May 4):**

Match 1: Widnes v Appleton; Match 2: Upton v Warrington; Match 3; Port Sunlight v Parkfield Liscard; Match 4: Stockport Trinity v Davenham; Match 5: Stockport v Ashton on Mersey; Match 6: Bredbury St. Mark's v Macclesfield; Match 7: Sandbach v Romiley; Match 8: Disley v Elworth; Match 9: Bollington v Hawk Green; Match 10: Wilmslow Wayfarers v Rode Park & Lawton; Match 11::Offerton v Weaverham; Match 12: Brooklands v Ashley; Match 13: Didsbury v Cheadle; Match 14: Timperley v Northwich.

### **ROUND 2 (Sunday, May 25):**

Winners of Match 14 v Nantwich; Urmston v winners of 11; Oxton v Winners of 2; winners of 1 v Hale Barns; Chester Boughton Hall v winners of 8; Wallasey v Alderley Edge; Grappenhall v Oulton Park; winners of 4 v winners of 9;

Winners of 13 v Bowdon; winners of 6 v Congleton; Toft v Bramhall; winners of 10 v Marple; Hyde v Birkenhead Park; winners of 7 v New Brighton; winners of 12 v Neston; winners of 5 v winners of 3.

Round 3 is on Sunday, June 25; round 4 on Sunday, July 27; semi-finals on Sunday, August 18; final on Sunday, August 31.

Dates of Shield games: round 1 – Sunday, June 1; round 2 – Sunday, June 29; semi-finals – Sunday, July 20; final – Sunday, August 17.

**CHANGE OF RULE:** A new regulation regarding a wide ball is being introduced, as follows: Off-side wide markings shall be painted between the popping crease and the bowling crease; if a ball passes outside the off-side wide line or outside the line of leg stump without touching the striker, the bowler's end umpire must call and signal WIDE. All clubs have been notified with specific details of the new line markings required. .

## **NINE LEAGUE CLUBS IN NATIONAL**

THE withdrawal of Grappenhall and Oxton leaves League representation at nine clubs in the **National Club championship** for 2014.

Six League are involved in the Group 5 first round draw and three in Group 6. The draw (Sunday, April 27) is

GROUP 5: Prestwich v Westhoughton; ALDERLEY EDGE v Farnworth; Clifton v Highfield; Farnworth SC v BRAMHALL; Leigh v MARPLE; Atherton v URMSTON; BOWDON v Astley & Tyldesley; Tonge v HYDE.

GROUP 6: Colwyn Bay v NANTWICH; Barlaston v Bootle; Caldý v Knypersley; Ormskirk v Wavertree; Wallasey v Formby; Longton v Northern; Sefton Park v NESTON; CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL v New Brighton.

## **Cheshire fixtures in full**

CHESHIRE will be playing in the **Unicorns Counties championship** and the **Unicorns Counties KO Trophy** in 2014 following a change of title.

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's full programme (home games in bold type) has now been confirmed:

### **UNICORNS KNOCK-OUT CUP (1 day):**

Northumberland at Jesmond on Sunday, April 27;

**Cumberland at Neston on Sunday, May 11;**

Shropshire at Oswestry on Sunday, May 18;

**Lincolnshire at Bramhall on Sunday, May 25;**

Should Cheshire win group 3 the quarter-final will be at Chester Boughton Hall on Sunday, June 15. If they finish runners-up they will be away.

The semi-finals are on Sunday, July 13, with the final at Wormsley on Wednesday, August 27.

### **UNICORNS COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP (3 days):**

Hereford at Colwall from Sunday – Tuesday, June 8 – 10

**Cornwall at Alderley Edge: Sunday – Tuesday, June 22 – 24**

Devon at Sidmouth: Sunday – Tuesday, July 6 – 8

**Wales MC at Bowdon: Sunday – Tuesday, July 20 – 22**

Wiltshire at South Wilts (Salisbury): Sunday – Tuesday, August 3 – 5

**Oxfordshire at Nantwich: Sunday – Tuesday, August 17 – 19.**

The inter-divisional play-off is Sunday - Wednesday, September 1 – 4 on the ground of the Western winners

All games start at 11 a.m. except for the play-off (10.30 a.m.).

### ***Development XI***

ONLY two fixtures have so far been arranged by the **Cheshire Development XI**, both against Lancashire 2nd, whom they defeated at Sale last season.

The games are at Emirates Old Trafford on Friday, April 25 and provisionally at Sale on Thursday, May 25.

### **OVER 50s FIXTURES .....**

SECRETARY-manager Paul Freedman has circulated Cheshire's fixture arrangements for their **National 50 Plus county championship** games as follows (all Wednesdays):

May 7: Shropshire at Wem (friendly); May 14: Cumbria at Appleby; May 21: Northumberland at Alderley Edge; May 28: Lancashire at Formby; June 11: Nottinghamshire at Toft; June 28: Durham at Grappenhall; July 2: Yorkshire at Clifton (York); July 9: Derbyshire at Hyde.

The round of last 16 has to be completed by Sunday, July 27; quarter-finals on Sunday, August 20; semi-finals on Sunday, August 24. The final is provisionally on Sunday, September 7.

### ***.....Chris Lees to lead Sixties***

A BUSY season lies ahead for Chris Lees who, apart from his chairmanship of Marple, is to captain Cheshire in their **Spitfire 60 Plus county championship** campaign. He takes over from Andy Hurworth, who remains team manager.

Cheshire's fixtures (all Tuesdays): April 29: Lancashire at Chester; May 6: Northumberland & Durham away; May 13: Yorkshire away; May 20: Shropshire at Knockin; June 3: Lincolnshire at Hartsholm; June 10: Derbyshire at Neston; June 17: Lancashire away; June 24: Yorkshire at Cheadle Hulme; July 1: Shropshire at Tattenhall; July 15: Lincolnshire at Grappenhall; July 22: Derbyshire away; July 29: Northumberland & Durham at Marple.

The last 16 play-offs are on August 26.

## **Seven new umpires on League list**

THERE are seven newcomers on the League Umpires panel for 2014, set against the loss of four from last season making a total of 55.

Newcomers are Warrington-based League vice chairman Brian Boys who has completed his Level 1 exam; Graham Pugh and Nigel Simms, both promoted from the TACS Cheshire League panel under a new advancement system, plus another long-serving TACS umpire in Peter Davies, who stood down as chairman during the close season. They are joined by further newcomers Darrin Clark who has umpired at Wallasey; Alan Hay, formerly an umpire in the defunct Manchester Association and ex-Urmston player Simon Smith.

Leaving the list is former League President Stan Davies, still recovering from the heart surgery he underwent during the winter, Ian Drury, Tom Park and Derick Van Rensberg.

It is expected that umpires' expenses will remain unchanged at the following rates: ECB Premier League £40; Divisions 1 & 2 and 2nd XI matches £37; RedInsure 1st and 2nd XI T20 Cup games £25; Cheshire Cup & Shield £35.

### **MEETING DATES:**

Umpires and Scorers Association meeting dates (all 8 p.m.) in 2014 are as follows:

- Pre-season at Timperley – Wednesday, April 16.
- Mid-season at Toft – Monday, June 30
- End of season & hot pot supper at Sale – Wednesday, September 17
- AGM at Toft – Wednesday, November 12.

### **CAG EVENTS**

SECRETARY Brian Jarrard reports on two major training courses for members of the Cheshire Association of Groundsmen later this year.

A Foundation A course is planned for Tuesday, April 8 at Warrington Sports Cub from 9 a.m. costing £20.

A Foundation B course follows on Tuesday, August 26 at Heaton Mersey, again costing £20.

The AGM is on Monday, November 3 at Hale Barns (7 p.m.)

Brian invites members or non members to contact him on [brian.jarrard48@gmail.com](mailto:brian.jarrard48@gmail.com) / [cagsadm1@yahoo.com](mailto:cagsadm1@yahoo.com)

## **Neville gets top appointments**

PANEL umpire Neville Kent has been enjoying a busy season in Sydney grade cricket, including a match at the famous SCG.

Neville writes: "I thought it might be of interest to *Newsletter* readers that I have been appointed to umpire Lancashire v Sussex in the United Arab Emirates in March. I am hoping to be joined by a colleague from the North-West, possibly Hugh Evans.

Following a spell there, I fly to Sri Lanka to join Emmanuel School, Clapham, on their Asian tour. I will be umpiring in six of their games, one being at the Sinhalese Sports Club, Colombo.

This is my schedule:

Friday, March 21: Arrive Dubai;

March 22: umpire Lancashire v MCC Universities at Sevens ground;

March 23: umpire Sussex v MCC Young Cricketers at Zayed Nursery;

March 25 – 26: umpire Sussex v Lancashire;

March 31: umpire King's School, Canterbury v Repton at Sevens ground

April 2: fly to Sri Lanka.

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### ***The Cricket Paper* on sale again**

NOW on sale on Fridays, *The Cricket Paper* re-appears on newsagents' shelves from March 7

The paper normally gives the results of all Premier League matches throughout the country played the previous weekend

The Editor is Craig Chisnall and he or his staff can be contacted by phone on 0208 971 438 or by email at [newsdesk@thecricketpaper.com](mailto:newsdesk@thecricketpaper.com)

## Causes worth your support

DIDSBURY batsman Philip Critchley writes:

“In 2005 when he was 22, my teammate George Pepper was diagnosed with MS while we both played for Pannall in the Niddersdale League at Harrogate.

“MS is the most commonly diagnosed neurological condition in the 20s – 40s, but George found it hard to contact fellow sufferers. 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 some 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>

### **DAVE HINE TO RUN IN LONDON MARATHON**

FORMER Winnington Park wicket-keeper/ captain and now Nantwich second teamer Dave Hine plans to run for 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 named 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 I’m looking to raise £1,000 for a worthy cause. Please help me”.

Dave can be contacted on [dkhine1@aol.com](mailto:dkhine1@aol.com) and the relevant website is [virginmoneygiving.com/davidhine](http://virginmoneygiving.com/davidhine).

### **BRAMHALL’S TWO MONEY-RAISERS**

TWO Bramhall personalities are planning to raise money for Lord’s Taverners by running in forthcoming marathon events and appeal for readers’ support. Rupes Kitzinger takes part in the London Marathon on April 13 and can be sponsored at [www.justgiving.com/rupes2014](http://www.justgiving.com/rupes2014)

Andy Reynolds is also running in the London Marathon and plans to warm up in the Manchester Marathon on Sunday, April 6. He can be backed at [www.justgiving.com/manchesterandlondon2014](http://www.justgiving.com/manchesterandlondon2014).

## Late Club News

### **ALVANLEY**

The arrival of former Malpas all-rounder and captain John Suckley will boost Alvanley’s improvement prospects..

### **BOWDON**

Bowdon’s former Lancashire captain Mark Chilton led an MCC team on a two-week tour to Malaysia and Singapore in late February. Among the personalities in the MCC squad was former England captain Alec Stewart.

### **BREDBURY ST. MARK’S**

New 1st XI captain is to be long-serving spin bowler Graham Barlow, who succeeds Paul Wood.

### **DAVENHAM**

South African all-rounder Johan Loubser will not be returning as he has agreed to play for Euxton. Davenham plan to register Aussie Kendal Fleming, 18, an all-rounder who plays in Brisbane first grade and has appeared for Australia Under 16s.

Pace bowler Dean Jackson who played in only half the 2013 games due to work, is to be available all season. Dean took 81 wickets when the club won promotion from the Cheshire League in 2012..

### **MARPLE**

Press Officer Mark Brook reports that two Marple old boys came up against one another when Tasmania hosted Queensland in the Sheffield Shield recently. Dominic Michael, Marple’s outstanding Aussie in 2011 made his first class debut in the game when he took the place of injured Test player Osman Khawaja. Beau Webster, (2013) was in the Tassy team who won easily thanks to a hat-trick from another ex-Test player Ben Hilfenhaus.

## **OULTON PARK**

A top winter acquisition is Tattenhall's New Zealand-born all-rounder Tom Hyslop, who has enjoyed outstanding all round results for the south Cheshire club in the past two seasons..

## **TATTENHALL**

Tattenhall are expecting great things from returning Overseas player Dan Power who is taking on extra junior coaching duties.

Tatters are to split the 1<sup>st</sup> XI captaincy jobs in 2014 and while Robin Mulvihill continues to lead the Saturday team, leading batsman Olly Thompson will lead the cup teams in midweek.

A key club date in 2014 is Sunday, July 13 when the all-star Lashings XI will be appearing at The Flacca.

## **TOFT**

All-rounder Rob Jones played for England in the Under 19s World Cup in Dubai. He was pictured live on television helping England through the group stages and was instrumental in a quarter-final victory over India with a fine innings batting at eight. The Lancashire Academy youngster, 17, again featured on Sky tv when England narrowly lost to Pakistan in the semi-final. England went on to beat Australia and gain a creditable third place in the tournament.

## **UPTON**

The new Tearoom at Old Greasby Road will not be ready for the start of the season, reports secretary Rob Chapman. Planning approval was delayed and work began only in mid-March meaning completion is not expected until June.

Rob asks visiting clubs to have patience while work continues and says that tea will be taken in the main pavilion or – on sunny days – outside on the terrace.

## **URMSTON**

Skipper Adam Syddall reports that Aussie all-rounder Adam Turrell, 24, is to be the club's Overseas player. Turrell plays in Sydney first grade cricket.

## **First Overseas players registered**

FIRST Overseas players to be registered by Assistant Secretary Tony Morris for 2014 are as follows:

BRAMHALL: Matt Begbie, 20, Australian batsman/wicket-keeper (second season);

BROOKLANDS: Kevin Renecke, 19, South African all-rounder;

CONGLETON: Matthew Stretch, New Zealand batsman/wicket-keeper;

DIDSBURY: Cloin Van Staden, 22, South African all-rounder;

MARPLE: Matthew Whittaker, Australian left-arm quick;

OXTON: Guyan Fernando, 29, Sri Lankan all-rounder (third season);

WIDNES: William Ryan, Australian all-rounder.

## **President's Trophy may end**

LEAGUE Cricket Conference received only three definite entries for their 2014 President's Trophy competition. At the Conference Winter meeting at Banbury, it was agreed to defer the draw and approach all interested leagues to seek their views. New chairman of Conference, succeeding the late Bob Cherry, is Middlesbrough-based Chris West.

Several players have been suspended for periods of up to two seasons for serious breaches of the Social Media Code of Conduct. Among those involve are Gareth Young (Ockbrook & Borrowash) and Chris Dewhurst (Waldsdon). These players should not be registered to play in any ECB affiliated cricket until their bans expire. Further information can be obtained from Secretary Neil Edwards on [Neil Edwardn.plus.com](mailto:Neil.Edwardn.plus.com)

## **DEATH OF BOB WOODHOUSE**

The death occurred aged 97 on February 17 of Robert (Bob) Woodhouse, who captained one of the most successful Cheshire clubs since the war at Winnington Park during the 1960s. Bob joined Winnington when he was appointed an ICI manager and with a host of fine players at his disposal, including Trevor Gibson, Tony and Keith Woodcock and Geoff Poole, Park won the Manchester Association title in 1960, then again in 1964 and 1965.

In later life he became a dedicated local politician representing the Conservative party Cheshire County Council, becoming chairman of several influential committees before being appointed an Alderman. His funeral was at Hartford Parish Church on Friday, February 28.

## **Dermot Reeve to speak at League Dinner**

FORMER Warwickshire, Sussex and Somerset all-rounder Dermot Reeve will be the speaker at the League's 40th Annual Presentation Dinner at The Mere on Friday, October 3.

Reeve will be supported by comedian Rod Woodward in a ceremony which will show changes following the appointment of a new sub-committee. Admission prices remain at £30, with a £2 reduction for under 18s.

## ***DON'T MISS THIS MEETING***

THE pre-season meeting of the League Management committee is at Warrington Sports Club on Wednesday, April 9 (8 p.m.)

All clubs - full members and associates - should attend to collect their allocations of cricket balls, handbooks, result sheets and team cards etc.

First League fixtures are scheduled for 10 days later on Saturday, April 19.

## **Flashback to September .....**

*Pictured by Gary Dixon at Wisbech last September is a group of Cheshire players with Assistant Secretary Elise Scrimgeour (holding trophy), following their victory over Cambridgeshire in the Minor Counties championship play-off.*

*From left to right are: skipper Danny Woods, Khalid Sawas, Adam Syddall, Warren Goodwin and Danny Berry, with Lee Dixon front right.*



***NEXT NEWSLETTER: PRE - SEASON***

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