



Cheshire County Cricket League



2014 PRE - SEASON NEWSLETTER

All systems go for April 19

FIXTURES in the League's 40th season begin on Saturday, April 19

In the Premiership, champions Chester Boughton Hall host last season's runners-up Neston in an intriguing early clash, while promoted duo Bramhall and Urmston both start on the road, at Alderley Edge and Bowdon respectively.

The full ECB Premier League line-up with umpires (12.30 p.m.) is:

ALDERLEY EDGE v BRAMHALL

Yet to be appointed

BOWDON v URMSTON

CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL v NESTON

GRAPPENHALL v MARPLE

HYDE v OXTON

TOFT v NANTWICH

In Division 1, twice promoted Davenham, who were playing in the Cheshire Cricket League two years ago, make the short journey to Middlewich and record-breaking 2013 Division 2 champions Timperley host Widnes.

Division 1 fixtures (1 p.m.):

BROOKLANDS v DIDSBURY

CHEADLE v SALE

CHEADLE HULME v CHRISTLETON

MIDDLEWICH v DAVENHAM

OULTON PARK v MACCLESFIELD

TIMPERLEY v WIDNES

Back in the League's Second Division for the first time 18 years, Northwich host Heaton Mersey at Moss Farm while Upton – returning after just 12 months – entertain Tattenhall in Wirral..

Division 2 fixtures (1 p.m.):

ALVANLEY v POYNTON

CONGLETON v BREDBURY ST. MARK'S

NORTHWICH v HEATON MERSEY

STOCKPORT v IRBY

UPTON v TATTENHALL

WEAVERHAM v WARRINGTON

2nd XI Premier Division (1 p.m.): Didsbury v Alderley Edge; Macclesfield v Hyde; Marple v Grappenhall; Nantwich v Toft; Neston v Chester Boughton Hall; Urmston v Cheadle.

First Divison: Bramhall v Brooklands; Bredbury v Congleton; Oxtan v Stockport; Sale v Bowden; Tattenhall v Middlewich; Warrington v Timperley

Division 1: Christleton v Cheadle Hulme; Davenham v Upton; Heaton Mersey v Northwich; Irby v Oulton Park; Poynton v Alvanley; Widnes v Weaverham

Saturday 3rd XI Division 1 (1 p.m.): Brooklands v Upton; Chester Boughton Hall v Macclesfield; Neston 3 v Oxtan 3; Oxtan 4 v Didsbury; Umston v Cheadle Hulme; Warrington v Neston 4.

Division 2: Haslington v Urmston 4; Irby 4 v Chester Boughton Hall 4; Sale v Irby 3; Timperley v Warrington 4; Upton v Ashley.

Late club news

CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL's new captain is hard-hitting left-hander **Lee Dixon**, who replaces triple-winner Steve Ogilby, not likely to be regularly available.

Retained by Lancashire on a new two year deal, **Jordan Clark** continues as a county contracted player, while a top-line overseas all-rounder from Brisbane is being lined up. Loic Gresty has stood down as groundsman

DIDSBURY plan interesting pre-season friendly games on the ground of Birmingham League club Redditch with a T20 followed by a 50 overs game next day, reports re-elected skipper Nick Anderson. Newcomers are Matt Benton, an '180-day' player who has moved to the UK from South Africa; all-rounder Alu Raza from Cheetham Hill; Glastonbury batsman Josh Beal; all-rounder Tezz Balmer from Warrington; former Denbigh seam bowler Chris Willson and Colin Van Staden, a fast bowler and mid order batsman from Pretoria as the Overseas. Patrick Moore, Andy Windle and James Hawley have all left the club.

MARPLE report many changes in a *Newsletter* issued by Press officer Mark Brook. apart from **Mark Bennett**, 23, becoming one of the club's youngest captains and Aussie all-rounder **Matt Whittaker** flying in from Victoria. Outstanding batsman **Paul Wood**, a Bredbury St. Mark's stalwart in recent seasons, will take up a top order spot; wicket-keeper **Mark Makin** moves from Hyde; Cheshire age group all-rounder **Elliott Young**, a high order batsman and left arm spinner moves from nearby Hawk Green. Another signing is **James Morgan**, a former colleague of Mark Bennett at Loughborough University, who has played for Yorkshire Under 19, Minor Counties for Lincolnshire and international national cricket for Spain!

Lancashire 'keeper joins Dabbers – and Cheshire

NANTWICH have acquired wicket-keeper **Gareth Cross**, who was released by Lancashire at the end of last season after nine years at Old Trafford. Cross, who played in the League for Bowdon in 2009 – and did well as a bowler – will replace **Jonny Kettle**, who is remaining in Australia after a season starring in grade cricket – and becoming engaged to be married. Cross has been registered by Cheshire and will be regularly available for Minor Counties cricket. Lancashire starlet **Liam Livingstone** is returning for a second season.

ALVANLEY's new skipper **Chris Charles** welcomes **John Suckley**, his former Malpas counterpart and Chester County Officers' all-rounder **Mike Rowlands**.

The picket fence has been extended and now reaches the pavilion.

Ashley have been drawn in the National Village ko.

MACCLESFIELD overseas star **Evan Gulbis** made history when he scored 229 and took 4-7 – including three wickets with his last four deliveries - to help Tasmania beat South Australia - coached by Darren Berry - in the Sheffield Shield. His tally was the highest on record for a number eight batsman in Oz first-class cricket and second only to Pakistan's Wasim Akram in the World first-class game. Batsman Nick Ross who scored 650 runs in 2013 is returning as 'the Overseas', this time as club captain. Nick enjoyed a successful winter with Carlton in Melbourne A grade cricket.

On a recent visit to the Barbados Cricket Museum, Cheshire 50s all-rounder **Ted Williams** spotted a picture of the West Indies XI which played at Macc in 1923. He has offered a smart phone picture he took to the club.

POYNTON. All-rounder **Jimmy Williams** has been starring in Dubai playing for England's Disability XI.

TIMPERLEY. Officers appointed since Handbook went to press: **4th XI captain: Martin Ward**; tels. 0161 980 6902 (); 07967 489 062 (m). E-mail: Martinward0263@gmail.com **Over 40s captain: Simon Spencer**. Tel. 07717 712 202 (m).E-mail: Simonspencer23@yahoo.com. **Child Welfare Officer: Nathan Brown**. Tel. 07546 925 842 (m). E-mail: nprb1992@hotmail.com

NESTON have gained an outstanding all-rounder in **Richard Wilkinson**, from Barnt Green. A former Bowdon and Alderley Edge player, Wilkinson is likely to be available for selection by Cheshire.

On the debt side, Neston have lost outstanding young all-rounder Andy Clarke, who has moved to nearby New Brighton to play Liverpool Competition cricket.

CHEADLE. A pre-season tour to Spain is planned with games at Valencia on April 11 and 12. Before that Cheadle play at Todmorden on April 5. Overseas player is to be Chris Moore, a left arm quickie from Melbourne.

Re-elected skipper **Paul Sperring** says he will again be handling the majority of the club's playing administration in 2014 and aims to reduce the list of fines.

TATTENHALL. Preparing for the highlight of the season at The Flacca, the club are taking bookings for lunch which will be followed by a 30 overs per innings match with **The Lashings XI** who are contracted to field many famous names on a day when the club expect to raise x£0000. Bookings and inquiries to robin.mulvihill@me.com

UPTON. Late appointments: **Matt Owen** becomes 2nd XI captain: tel. 07763 981 806 (m); e-mail: mattowen1@me.com New 3rd XI captain is **Alex Jones**. Tel. 07708 949 577 (m). E-mail: alex35trfc@hotmail.co.uk.

Overseas players sign up

SPECIAL Category players registered by Assistant Secretary Tony Morris for 2014 up to March 24 are as follows:

ALDERLEY EDGE: Simon O'Brien, aged 28, Australian left arm fast bowler. Played for Cheadle in 2013

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

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

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

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

GRAPPENHALL: Josh McClelland, 21, Australian all-rounder (second season).

MACCLESFIELD: Nick Ross, Australian batsman (second season).

MARPLE: Matthew Whittaker, Australian left-arm quick;

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

TATTENHALL: Dan Power, 22, New Zealand all-rounder (second season).

TIMPERLEY: Matt Macquet, New Zealand all-rounder (third season)

WIDNES: William Ryan, Australian all-rounder.

Ordinarily resident Category B (180 days):

DIDSBURY: Matthew Benton, 29, South African.

O Tony Morris points out that there is an additional form for clubs to complete this season if they wish to register a player under the Ordinarily Resident 180 days category. This can be downloaded – together with all other forms – from the League website. Go the left hand side, Home Page 2014 Documents Library, then scroll to Official League Forms for 2014 and voila!

Nantwich's John Prince dies, aged 76



NANTWICH lost one of their most popular and long-standing members when John Prince died, aged 76 on Thursday, March 6 after a winter-long illness, with his wife Barbara and son Lee at his bedside,

A quality right hand batsman and off-spinner, John played for the club in the North Staffs & South Cheshire League through four decades against and alongside some World class professionals, the latter including club pro Sonny Ramadhin in 1970.

He became a member of the ground committee while still a player and was involved in the move to the club's present home in Whitehouse Lane in 1970. He became vice chairman, then chairman in 2000, holding the position for seven years. He assumed the demanding job as groundsman and took great pride in the condition of the pitch and square which greatly improved under his stewardship.

In accordance with his wishes, John was laid to rest in the cemetery which overlooks the ground in the company of many other former Nantwich CC stalwarts.

Death of Mark Hancock, 42

THE death has occurred aged 42 of former Bramhall player Mark Hancock, the son of David and Dehrne Hancock of Cheadle Hulme. Mark leaves a widow and five year-old child.

'Mersey lose nonogenarian Edgar Sawyer

ONE of the best-loved personalities at Heaton Mersey, Edgar Sawyer died after a short illness on Thursday, March 13. He was 92. A true gentleman in every sense, Edgar held every major office at Heaton Mersey where he became notable for his leadership both off the field and on it, captaining the club for many years as well as the Manchester Association and District Bank XIs.

Owing to time constraints, only the obituary report of John Prince above will appear in the 2014 issue of the League handbook.

13 new captains in 2014

THE following 13 clubs have new 1st XI captains in 2014:

ALVANLEY, Chris Charles; BREDBURY ST. MARK's: Graham Barlow.

CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL: Lee Dixon; CHRISTLETON: Iroshan De Silva

CONGLETON: Paul Beaumont; MACCLESFIELD: Nick Ross

MARPLE: Mark Bennett; MIDDLEWICH: Nick Gill

NORTHWICH: Mark Walker (re-elected); OULTON PARK: Rick Moore

SALE: Keith Wrrlings; UPTON: Andy Roberts; WIDNES: Sean Moore.

Fixture changes

THE following changes to original fixtures have been notified:

REDINSURE T20: Bredbury St. Mark's v Poynton switched from Thursday, June 5 to Monday, June 2; Toft v Didsbury from Thursday, June 5 to Tuesday June 3; Toft v Bredbury St. Mark's from Thursday, June 19 to Tuesday, June 17.

OVER 40s SECTION SOUTH-EAST GROUP: Bramhall v Marple on Wednesday, May 21 and Marple v Bramhall on Wednesday, July 9 switched. Likewise Bramhall v Macclesfield on Wednesday, June 18 and Macclesfield v Bramhall on Wednesday, August 6.

CHESHIRE CUP: 2nd round: Toft v Bramhall postponed from Sunday, May 25 to Sunday, June 1 (by agreement with organiser Barrie Burns).

O ADDITIONAL Cheshire Development XI fixtures arranged are: Wednesday /Thursday, June 25/ 26: Durham Academy at Brandon; Tuesday / Wednesday, June 25 / 26: Lancashire U19s at Sale; Friday, July 25: Shropshire Development XI at Whitchurch.

O LEAGUE umpire Alistair Davies has been appointed to stand in the match between MCC and MCC Young Cricketers at Lord's on Wednesday, May 7. Alistair does not figure on the Minor Counties panel in 2014.

O CHEADLE HULME ask if any clubs have 'tins' surplus to requirements would they contact secretary Richard Battye on richard.battye@manchester.au.uk The Grove Park club have long-term plans to install an electronic scoreboard but meantime need to improve the present facilities.

Handbook advertisers

ADVERTISERS in the 40th edition of the League handbook due for publication on April 9 are as follows:

VIVIO (main sponsors);

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P.B. SYDDALL & SON (new League auditors; free of charge);

CHESHIRE CRICKET TRUST (Cheshire Cricket Board; free of charge)

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BOLA: bowling machines

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GUARDIAN SERIES NEWSPAPERS:

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CHESHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB

LANCASHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB

BLACK 5 BOOKS: proprietor Ken Simpson

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WHITCHURCH SPORTS: Brian Gresty

O It was disappointing that no member clubs accepted an invitation to place an advertisement to publicise a summer event or to assist in the presentation.

Macc changing rooms near completion

The picture below taken by Allan Sherratt in early March shows the virtually completed new changing rooms at Macclesfield Cricket Club which have replaced the pre-war version demolished last September.

The building which incorporates facilities for umpires and the disabled is expected to be completed and in full use for the start of the season on April 19.



KEY MEETING

Clubs are reminded of the importance of attending the pre-season League Management meeting at Warrington Sports Club on Wednesday, April 9 (8 p.m.).

Reps. should arrange to collect their supplies of cricket balls, handbooks, results sheets, team cards etc.

Associate members not present will be charged for anything which has to be posted to them.

O Please note that MTB will not be available on line for up to a week from approx. March 30 due to the installation of a major computer up-date.

NEXT NEWSLETTER: MONDAY, APRIL 21 COVERING OPENING GAMES