



CBH turn tables on Neston; lead by 12 with a game to go

NESTON's eight match unbeaten run in the **ECB Premier League** came to an unexpected end when they were trounced at lowly Bowdon, banking only one point, while Chester Boughton Hall turned a deficit of 12 into a 12 points lead with a comfortable home victory over Grappenhall.

Bowdon's notable double over Neston was achieved by six wickets at South Downs roads with the help of 54 runs from their leading batsman Simon Marshall. Earlier in the week Marshall was suspended by a League Disciplinary Committee for four games running into next season (see statement at foot of page). The former Neston and Lancashire player subsequently lodged an appeal against ruling before Saturday's 12 noon start, rendering him eligible to play.

Beginning the match with 856 runs, Marshall's innings and an unbeaten 37 from another ex-Old Trafford man, Mark Chilton, helped Bowdon reply with 125-4 to Neston's shock dismissal for 124, Jack Smith 49, Gareth Edwards 3-37.

While this was going on, Chester were engaged in a higher-scoring game at home to Grappenhall, where their visitors batted well to post a daunting 242-8, Adam Roylance 77, James McCoy 46, Warren Goodwin 3-19. Chester were always on course, however, and with Lancashire's Jordan Clark continuing the form which earned him a MofM century in the Cheshire Cup final at New Brighton the previous weekend, CBH sailed home at 243-3 in 42 overs. Clark was unbeaten with 106 off 75 balls, including nine fours and seven sixes. Matt Griffiths helped with 49, Goodwin 39 and Lee Dixon 36 not out.

Any two from three for drop

Meanwhile, it's still any two from three for the relegation places after Didsbury registered their second successive victory. This was by three wickets at home to Oxton, whom they dismissed for 187, Shaaiq Choudhry 43, Simon Normanton 4-52, Nick Anderson 3-47. Didsbury replied with 190-7, main contributors again being Anderson, 59 and Normanton, 43, while Gayan Fernando took 4-90.

Macclesfield fell back to the bottom after a 79 runs home defeat by Alderley Edge, who have shot up to fourth place. Luckless Calum Rowe, who has never scored a Premier League ton, was out for 99, he and Adam Worrall, 58 putting on 123 for the third wicket. Macc were all out for 188, Rob Porter 6-37, with Ian Tait, career best 31 and Barney Cutbill, 21, putting on 58 for the last wicket in vain. Alderley's star turn was again Jason Whittaker with a superb 6-73 return.

Marple complete the trinity at the foot of the table following a fifth defeat in six games at home to Nantwich. The retiring champions totalled 214, highlighted by a magnificent 115 from yet another Red Rose star in Liam Livingstone, while Andy Greasley claimed 4-63 and James Ormond 4-74. Marple were bowled out for 156, Gary Cash 42, with Ollie Griffiths enjoying the remarkable figures of 25-10-17-6, aided by Jimmy Warrington's 20.4-8-36-4.

In the final fixtures, Marple (229 points) are at Bowdon, Didsbury (225) go to Alderley Edge and Macclesfield (209) travel to Hyde.

Hyde clinched a creditable third final placing with a 90 runs victory at fading Toft (four defeats in five). Hyde recovered from 35-2 to close on 246-2, James Duffy 112 (nine fours and five sixes) and Tom Twiney 111 (12 fours and one six) putting on 211 in an unbroken third wicket stand. Post-tea, Danny Cranmer, 5-57 and Chris Tipper, 4-29 bowled Toft out for 156, after James Drummond, 48 and Jake Hancock, 40 had opened with a 68 partnership.

MARSHALL RULING. The original pre-appeal statement regarding the suspension of Bowdon's Simon Marshall issued by the Discipline panel last Wednesday read as follows:

"Simon Marshall has been suspended by the League Disciplinary committee for a period of four weeks for verbally abusing an Oxton player in an ECB Premier League game on Saturday, August 10.

Marshall is not eligible to play in the final two fixtures of the season (the period September 7 to 20 inclusive) and in the two opening games of the 2014 season (the period April 19 to May 2 inclusive). The suspension applies to all ECB-approved fixtures".

15th win earns Bramhall Division 1 title

BRAMHALL clinched the **First Division** title with a match to spare with a comfortable six wickets victory over Middlewich at Church Lane.

Since their last defeat at home to Cheadle Hulme on July 6, Bramhall's consistent record has been WWWDWWWTW and skipper Nick Cantello can look back upon a highly successful season and – in direct contrast to his beloved Stockport County – a rise into the Premiership. The Old Firm of Simon Wilkinson, 4-44 and Rupes Kitzinger, 4-48 shot Middlewich out for 129, to which Bramhall replied with 131-4, overseas batsman Matt Begbie contributing 53 and Matt Hughes 42.

Who joins them in promotion is not yet certain, although Urmston are strong favourites after a 29 runs home win over Brooklands. Chris Watson, 67 top-scored in Urmies' 236-5, to which Brooklands, with only one win since mid-July, replied with 207 all out, Chris Hart 88. The match-winner was leg-spinner Matthew Parkinson with the superb figures of 17-5-77-7. This in a week when he was awarded the Cedric Rhoades Trophy as Lancashire's Best Under 16 Player of the Year AND being invited to bowl at the ODI nets at Old Trafford.

'Hulme still in reckoning

Cheadle Hulme stay in the reckoning after a remarkable three wickets win at Widnes and go into the last game trailing Urmston by 15 points. Widnes racked up 212-7 with 78 from Alex Graham and Cheadle Hulme crashed to 100-7 after tea before a match-winning unbroken stand of 116 between Ollie Potts, 70 and Chris Beckley, 58, saw them home. Danny Moore took 4-40

At the foot of the table, relegated Bredbury St. Mark's were hammered at Kingsway where Cheadle compiled 300-3, which according to skipper Paul Sperring, is the highest tally in the club's 150 years history. Greg Dixon contributed 140 and Nick Reid 70 in an opening stand worth 222. Bredbury also batted well to reach 250-6 (that's 550 runs for the loss of eight wickets in the match), Peter Zybrands 75.

Heaton Mersey are virtually certain to go down alongside Bredbury, yet produced the individual performance of the day in a 77 runs home defeat by Christleton. The visitors scored 188-7, Jack Philips 72 not out, Iroshan De Silva 63, Rashid Amin taking 5-63 including a hat-trick. Amin then top scored with a fighting 53 as 'Mersey were all out for 111, Ifi Naseer 3-10, De Silva 3-17.

Sale enjoyed a winning draw in a tight finish at home to Oulton Park after totalling 197-7, Keith Wellings 84 not out, Andy Hards 5-63. Oulton got to 190-8, Rick Moore missing his fifth ton of the season by one run, while Rick Halkon took 4-35.

DIVISION 2 ISSUES GO TO WIRE

TIMPERLEY looked every inch **Second Division** champions when they recorded their 17th victory, by eight wickets to end Tattenhall's hopes of an upgrade. Timperley's tally of 454 points goes past the divisional record of 452 set up by Poynton in 2002.

Tatters declined from 57-1 (Ollie Thompson 36) to 86-7 and limped to a final tally of 148, Dave Shewring 33, the consistent Chris Page taking 5-54 and Matt Macquet 3-49. Pat Ashling set about the Tattenhall attack with relish after tea and romped to 61, with 12 fours, with Mike Stevens, 43 and Aussie all-rounder Macquet, 39 not out helping in an eight wickets win.

Brian Jarrard's Tattenhall ground looked superb as always, like the breathtaking countryside, and it's impossible not to be impressed by the progressive south-Cheshire club's creation of a croquet section!

It's Davenham in the driving seat for second place after they beat local rivals Weaverham by seven wickets at Butcher's Stile. Weaverham were shot out for 128, James Lewis 41 not out, Johan Loubser 5-25, to which Davenham responded with 140-3, Dave Ashley 41 not out. Davenham may need to win their final game – at Bollington – to go up.

Adams after bowling record

Stockport lost ground with a home defeat by Warrington after their visitors had totalled 158-6, Richard Heaney 34 not out, Mark Eley 5-77. The Cale Green men were then bowled out for 103 by – no surprise – Kyle Adams, with 5-42. This took the Aussie's seasonal tally to 89 wickets beating his own divisional record of 87 set up in 2012. Adams needs only two victims against Tattenhall to beat Ronnie Locke's all-time record of 90 scalps for Toft in 1989.

At the foot of the table, Stockport Georgians sadly lost their League status after a six wickets defeat at Poynton. Georgians totalled 151, Mark Vincent 59, Rick Clark 3-44 after which Poynton cantered home in 32 overs at 152-4, Paul Gould 67.

Bollington gave themselves a slither of hope with a six wickets home win over fellow strugglers Alvanley, whom they dismissed for 166, Ed Speakman 47, Mo Ali 4-35, Syed Khan 4-80. Rick Hough scored 65 not out and H. Imran 65 as Bolly responded with 167-4, their second win in three weeks.

Irby's improvement continued with a five wickets win at Congleton, whom they restricted to 161-9, Colin Gibson 6-46. Andy Williams contributed an unbeaten 68 to Irby's response of 165-5.

ECB PREMIER LEAGUE RESULTS

BOWDON (25 pts.) beat NESTON (won toss, 1 pt.) by 6 wickets

Neston 124 (44 overs: J. Smith 49, G. Edwards 3-37);
Bowdon 125-4 (overs: S Marshall 57, M Chilton 36no).

CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL (toss, 25 pts.) beat GRAPPENHALL (9 pts.) by 7 wickets

Grappenhall 242-8 (55 overs: A Roylance 77, J McCoy 46, L. Parkinson 42, R. Green 33no, **W Goodwin 3-19**);
Chester 243-3 (42 overs: J Clark 106no, M. Griffiths 49, W. Goodwin 39, L. Dixon 36no).

DIDSBURY (toss, 25 pts.) beat OXTON (7 pts.) by 3 wickets:

Oxton 187 (50 overs: S Choudhry 43, S. Normanton 4-52, N Anderson 3-47);
Didsbury 190-7 (50 overs: N Anderson 59, S Normanton 43, G. Fernando 4-90).

MACCLESFIELD (toss, 5 pts.) lost to ALDERLEY EDGE (25 pts.) by 79 runs:

Alderley Edge 267-7 (55 overs: C Rowe 99, A. Worrall 58, T Foreman 32);
Macclesfield 188 (37 overs: R. Porter 66, I. Tate 31, J. Whittaker 6-73, T. Foreman 3-46).

MARPLE (5 pts.) lost to NANTWICH (toss, 35 pts.) by 58 runs:

Nantwich 214 (49 overs: L Livingstone 115, R. Doyle 36, A Greasley 4-63, J Ormond 4-74).
Marple 156 (54 overs: G Cash 42, O. Griffiths 6-17, J. Warrington 4-36).

TOFT (1 pt.) lost to HYDE (toss, 25 pts.) by 90 runs:

Hyde 246-2 (55 overs: J Duffy 112no, T Twiney 111no = third wicket stand of 211);
Toft 156 (45 overs: J. Drummond 58, J. Hancock 40, D Cranmer 5-57, C Tipper 4-29).

DIVISION ONE

BRAMHALL (25 pts.) beat MIDDLEWICH (won toss, 3 pts.) by 6 wickets:

Middlewich 129 (overs: S Wilkinson 4-44, R Kitzinger 4-48);
Bramhall 131-4 (overs: M Begbie 53, M. Hughes 42).

CHEADLE (13 pts.) drew with BREDBURY ST. MARK'S (toss, 6 pts.)

Cheadle 300-3 (50 overs: G Dixon 140, N. Reid 70 = 222 first wicket, D Brown 45no); club record score;
Bredbury 250-6 (50 overs: P Zybrands 75, R Keyworth 46, C Wood 36, S O'Brien 3-27).

HEATON MERSEY (4 pts.) lost to CHRISTLETON (toss, 25 pts.) by 77 runs:

Christleton 188-7 (50 overs: J Phillips 72no, I. De Silva 63, R. Amin 5-63 inc. hat-trick);
Heaton Mersey 111 (40 overs: R Amin 53, A. Ayre 34, I. Naseer 3-10, I. De Silva 3-17).

SALE (12 pts.) drew with OULTON PARK (toss, 7 pts.)

Sale 197-7 (50 overs: K Wellings 84no, A. Hards 5-63);
Oulton Park 190-8 (50 overs: R Moore 99, L Bentley 30, R Halkon 4-35, T Tharsen 3-57).

URMSTON (25 pts.) beat BROOKLANDS (toss, 6 pts.) by 29 runs:

Urmston 236-5 (50 overs: C Watson 67, A Robinson 3-57);
Brooklands 207 (49 overs: C Hart 85, M. Parkinson 7-77).

WIDNES (11pts.) lost to CHEADLE HULME (toss, 25 pts.) by 3 wickets:

Widnes 212-7 (50 overs: A Graham 78);
Cheadle Hulme 215-7 (overs: O Potts 78no, C. Beckley 58no, D. Moore 4-40).

DIVISION 2 RESULTS

BOLLINGTON (won toss, 25 pts.) beat ALVANLEY (5 pts.) by 6 wickets:

Alvanley 166 (50 overs: E Speakman 47, M Ali 4-35, S. Khan 4-80);
Bollington 167-4 (36 overs: R. Hough 65no, M Imran 65).

CONGLETON (toss, 6 pts.) lost to IRBY (25 pts.) by 5 wickets:

Congleton 161-9 (50 overs: T Blease 33, T Leese 30no, C. Gibson 6-46);
Irby 165-5 (50 overs: A. Williams 68no, D. Newman 34, P Beaumont 3-31).

DAVENHAM (toss, 25 pts.) beat WEAVERHAM (3 pts.) by 7 wickets:

Weaverham 139 (48 overs: J Lewis 41no, J. Loubser 5-25);
Davenham 140-3 (40 overs: D Ashley 40no).

POYNTON (toss, 25 pts.) beat STOCKPORT GEORGIANS (5 pts.) by 6 wickets:

Stockport Georgians 151 (50 overs: M Vincent 59, R Clark 3-44);
Poynton 152-4 (32 overs: P. Gould 67, J. Williams 42).

STOCKPORT (toss, 2 pts.) lost to WARRINGTON (25 pts.) by 55 runs:

Warrington 158-6 (50 overs: R Heaney 34, J Rudd 31no, M. Eley 5-77);
Stockport 103 (36 overs: K Adams 5-42, M Adams 3-27).

TATTENHALL (toss, 4 pts.) lost to TIMPERLEY (25 pts.) by 8 wickets:

Tattenhall 148 (48 overs: O Thompson 36, D. Shewring 33, C Page 5-54, M Macquet 3-49);
Timperley 149-2 (26 overs: P Ashling 61, M. Stevens 43, M. Macquet 39no).

PICK OF WEEK

ECB Premier League

Batting: cLIAM LIVINGSTONE (Nantwich) 115 v Marple
Bowling: JASON WHITTAKER (Alderley Edge) 6-73 v Macclesfield

First Division

Batting: GREG DIXON (Cheadle) 140 v Bredbury
Bowling: MATT PARKINSON (Urmston) 7-77 v Brooklands

Second Division

Batting: ANDY WILLIAMS (Irby) 68 v Congleton
Bowling: o JOHAN LOUBSER (Davenham) 5-25 v Weaverham

PLAYERS OF YEAR

BALLOT papers have gone out to all 36 clubs inviting them to vote for the three divisional Players of the Year. Alvanley, Davenham, Didsbury, Heaton Mersey, Macclesfield, Oulton Park and Warrington have made early replies

The awards will be presented at the League Dinner at The Mere on Friday, October 4 when former Surrey and England star Alec Stewart is to be guest speaker.

ALL clubs are urged to return completed forms this year, as usual to MTB, preferably by e-mail at mike.t-b@virgin.net If your club has not yet received a form, please contact soonest.

O 2012 season winners were Khalid Sawas (Macclesfield, Premier League); Rick Moore (Oulton Park, Division One); oKyle Adams (Warrington, Division Two).

AVERAGES

FIRST XI averages need not be submitted unless they differ from the statistics on the League website.

How they stand after 21 games ... one to go

| ECB PREMIER | W (25) | T (16) | WD (3) | RD (2) | LD (1) | C/AB (7) | L | Bat | Bowl | Total pts. |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------|------------|-------------|-------------------|
| CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL | 14 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 32 | 21 | 411 |
| NESTON (8) | 14 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 26 | 22 | 399 |
| HYDE | 11 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 46 | 26 | 358 |
| ALDERLEY EDGE | 10 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 31 | 23 | 316 |
| OXTON | 10 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 35 | 27 | 315 |
| GRAPPENHALL | 8 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 79 | 22 | 311 |
| TOFT | 8 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 10 | 47 | 24 | 288 |
| NANTWICH | 8 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 42 | 26 | 279 |
| BOWDON | 7 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 56 | 35 | 273 |
| MARPLE | 5 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 12 | 61 | 34 | 229 |
| DIDSBURY | 5 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 14 | 63 | 34 | 225 |
| MACCLESFIELD | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 12 | 65 | 31 | 209 |

Neston 8 points deducted for slow over rate.

DIVISION 1

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|----|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|------------|
| BRAMHALL | 15 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 32 | 16 | 445 champs |
| URMSTON | 14 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 31 | 10 | 408 |
| CHEADLE HULME | 13 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 34 | 26 | 393 |
| SALE | 7 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 69 | 21 | 311 |
| OULTON PARK | 8 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 55 | 38 | 306 |
| BROOKLANDS | 9 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 9 | 36 | 28 | 294 |
| WIDNES | 8 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 55 | 27 | 288? |
| CHEADLE | 7 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 52 | 40 | 280 |
| CHRISTLETON | 6 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 9 | 78 | 34 | 276 |
| MIDDLEWICH | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 10 | 37 | 39 | 209 |
| HEATON MERSEY | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 14 | 56 | 49 | 190 |
| BREDBURY ST. MARK'S | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 13 | 62 | 31 | 179 rel |

DIVISION 2

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|----|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|------------|
| TIMPERLEY | 17 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 10 | 15 | 454 champs |
| DAVENHAM | 11 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 51 | 31 | 370 |
| STOCKPORT | 12 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 22 | 14 | 362 |
| TATTENHALL | 12 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 28 | 21 | 353 |
| WARRINGTON | 12 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 20 | 25 | 351 |
| POYNTON | 10 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 39 | 29 | 340 |
| CONGLETON | 10 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 37 | 27 | 320 |
| WEAVERHAM | 9 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 7 | 52 | 30 | 316 |
| IRBY | 5 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 13 | 56 | 31 | 216 |
| ALVANLEY | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 15 | 52 | 29 | 184 |
| BOLLINGTON | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 14 | 46 | 36 | 165 |
| STOCKPORT GEORGIANS | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 16 | 59 | 41 | 148 rel |

Cheshire 60s lose crown

HOLDERS of the **Spitfire 60 Plus county championship**, Cheshire bowed out of the competition when they lost by nine runs against Wales at Grappenhall in the semi-final on Tuesday last week.

Wales compiled 215-4 in their 45 overs, an innings which included 39 extras, 21 of them wides. The wicket-takers were Alan Hitchmough 1-23, John Edwards 1-31, Howard Morris 1-50 and Bob Yardley 1-54.

A superb knock by Richard Powell, with an unbeaten 76 off 78 balls, almost pulled it off for Cheshire after a slow start.

Andy Hurworth's team now meet Essex on a neutral ground in Northampton on Tuesday, September 18 for third place. Victory would help their qualification for the 2014 season.

Cheshire Over 60s 2nd XI beat Worcestershire by 76 runs in the **National Plate semi-finals** at Cheadle Hulme on Thursday.

Scores: Cheshire 206-9 Worcs 130. Cheshire are at home to Devon in the final, but may agree to a neutral venue.

O THE death of former Winnington Park chairman and player Rod Casey has been reported. Further details to follow.

End of season meetings

OVER 40 section clubs are reminded about the end of season Special Meeting at Warrington on Wednesday, October 16 (7 pm).

Alsager Dabbers report that they will be playing home matches on Wednesdays in 2014, while interest in joining has been shown by Ashton on Mersey and Compstall. Urmston may seek a place for a 2nd XI.

THE annual meeting of Third XI representatives will also be held on Wednesday, October 16 at Warrington starting at 8 p.m.

This meeting takes on extra importance due to major proposals which have been circulated recommending regionalisation of Sunday cricket and a reduction in overs.

Voting on proposals agreed at the two meetings will be made at the management meeting at Bowdon on Wednesday, January 22

Cheshire Alliance club Haslington have indicated their interest in joining the Sunday set up.

Umpires' courses

ECB ACO plan two Level One umpires courses during the close season, both over six weeks at a cost of £40 per person. Details

1. Tuesday evenings, 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. from October 1 at HALE BARNES
2. Wednesday evenings, 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. from January 15 at OAKMERE

Contact Geoff Young, 01352 755 881; curzon99@tiscali.co.uk or Dave Lawson 01606 76587; Lmaureen4@aol.com

Charity Cricket Dinner

BRAMHALL Golf Club is to stage a Charity Cricket Dinner in aid of McMillan Nurses and the Rotary Club of Manchester in the clubhouse at Ladythorn Road, Bramhall on Wednesday, October 30.

One of the organisers is Dehrne Hancock, wife of former Cheadle Hulme player and chairman, David Hancock, currently in his sixth year as president of Staffs County Club. Both are keen golfers at Bramhall. Guest speaker is England selector and former Cheshire all-rounder Geoff Miller

Further information about tickets at £30 per head, is available from Jim Alexander on 0161 439 0400

CHEADLE CRICKET WEEK

HIGHLIGHT of **Cheadle's 150 anniversary Cricket Week** from August 5 – 10 was a match between Cheadle and MCC on the Thursday when Gary Cash made a temporary return and helped old club over the line, batting at the end with one of the current stars, Dan Brown, who was left high and dry on 99 not out (*writes Tony Brady*).

The first game of the Week between Cheadle and Cheadle Hulme was called off due to rain, but it cleared up next day when the 2004 Division 1 winning side took on the current 1st XI. The 'old' team contained Glen Wilkinson who travelled from Boston, USA to play, but was out first ball. Also in action was Steven Hall, now living in Melbourne. The 2013 team won a close game

Wednesday saw an Under 15 game between Cheadle and a District XI managed by Gavin Colbourne. This was followed by an Over 40s challenge between Cheadle and Chairman Tony Brady's Select XI containing ex-players Steve Shaw, Nick Bishop, Andy Grice and Alistair Stevens.

The Marquee Ball on Saturday evening was attended by 200 people who enjoyed a four course meal, music and dancing plus an amusing speech by former Aussie Test bowler Rodney Hogg. Many ex-Cheadle players from throughout the country made a special effort to be there and enjoyed a splendid evening

Pitch & ground marks: August 31

UMPIRES' ground marks from games played on Saturday, August 31 were as follows:

ECB Premier League: Alderley Edge v Toft pitch 18 outfield 17; Grappenhall v Didsbury 18 - 17; Hyde v Marple 15 – 20; Nantwich v Bowdon 18 - 20; Oxton v Macclesfield 20 – 20 (full house);

First Division: Bredbury v Widnes 17 – 16; Brooklands v Sale 15 – 17; Cheadle Hulme v Urmston 17 – 9; Christleton v Bramhall 19 – 20; Middlewich v Cheadle 20 - 20 (full house); Oulton Park v Heaton Mersey 18 – 17.

Second Division: Alvanley v Congleton 17 – 19; Irby v Poynton 19 - 20; Stockport Georgians v Tattenhall 17 – 20; Timperley v Stockport 16 – 20; Warrington v Davenham 18 – 19; Weaverham v Bollington 13 – 18.

All captains' reports were again received by co ordinator Ken Spilsbury. Ken stresses that it is important that marks for the final two weeks, especially September 14, are delivered early so he can prepare a report for the end of season umpires meeting at Sale on September 18.

IN RETROSPECT ...

O Wicket-keeper Adam Worrall took three catches and scored 39 runs in Alderley Edge's Premier League victory over Toft
O There was a partnership of 123 for the third wicket between James Duffy (116 not out) and skipper Danny Berry (63) in victorious Hyde's tally of 288-4 at home to Marple.

O Macclesfield must regret that Barney Cutbill has been so rarely available this season. In his side's 63 runs defeat at Oxton he took 6-87 and caught two other Oxton batsmen and later scored 19 not out in an unavailing 10th wicket partnership of 31 with Ian Tait. Vieing for man of the match honours was Oxton's Martyn Smith, with 83 runs and a 3-48 bowling return. Macclesfield had no scorer.

O There were seven single figure innings in Urmston's key First Division game at Cheadle Hulme which declined from 188-4 to 203 all out. In reply., Cheadle Hulme were 152-8 before a ninth wicket stand between Chris Beckley (30) and Jonny Reeh (14 earned a two wickets win. Urmston took 11 points from this game, not seven as previously reported.

O Greg Dixon scored 109 and took four catches in Cheadle's 187 runs victory at Middlewich whose fourth change bowler Nigel Stubbs had an analysis of 5-0-50-0. The only blot on Cheadle's day: no scorer.

O Heaton Mersey scorer Richard August was taken to hospital with a badly swollen leg during his club's game at Oulton Park.

O Injured skipper Andy Bennion batted at 11 (and scored a crucial nine not out in a stand worth 15) in his side's one run victory over Congleton. The match finished 29 minutes late at 8 p.m. after a 1.01 start, but sufficient allowances were granted by the umpires (31 minutes tea, 10 minutes drinks breaks, 13 minutes lost balls) to remain within the time frame..

O Rough luck for Warrington's Aussie paceman Kyle Adams not to finish on the winning side at home to Davenham, after taking 7-91. Davenham had no scorer.

O Bollington wicket-keeper Ged McKernan took three stumpings in his team's 11 runs defeat at Weaverham.

O Apologies to Tattenhall's fine batsman Ollie Thompson incorrectly referred to as Ollie Griffiths when scoring a best of season 130 not out at Stockport Georgians.,

Liverpool Echo ko final

CHESTER Boughton Hall will be aiming to add to their trophy cabinet when they meet Bootle at Filkins Lane in the *Liverpool Echo knock-out final* on Sunday, September 15. The game starts at 11 a.m. and consists of two innings each of 20 overs.

UPTON LEAD TACS CHESHIRE LEAGUE

UPTON shot into a four points lead in the **TACS sponsored Cheshire League** First Division with a three wickets win over Chester County Officers at Greasby and will host lowly Runcorn in their final game Moberley lost at home to third-placed Northwich by 41 runs, but go into the last week 10 points clear in second place.

RESULTS: Ashton on Mersey 122 Romiley 123-9; Hale Barns v Winnington Park late result; Malpas 112-4 Oakmere 108; Moberley 84 Northwich 125-9 dec.; Runcorn 170-7 Prestbury 168; Upton 76-7 Chester County Officers 75.

LATEST PLACINGS: 1. Upton 413; 2. Moberley 409; 3. Northwich 399; 4. Romiley 349; 5. Malpas 339; 6. Ashton on Mersey 329; 7. Hale Barns 293; 8. Runcorn 254; 9. Oakmere 250; 10., CCO 247; 11. Prestbury 189; 12. Winnington Park 170. The Hale Barns v Winnington match points are not included. Division 2 leaders: 1. Mere 431 champions; 2. Lindow 396. Only Lindow promoted.

FINAL FIXTURES in Division 1 on Saturday, September 14 (12.30 p.m.): Chester County Officers v Winnington Park; Northwich v Malpas; Oakmere v Ashton on Mersey; Prestbury v Moberley; Romiley v Hale Barns; Upton v Runcorn.

Information supplied by Graham Coull, Cheshire Cricket League vice chairman.

Moore ton in Cheshire play-off

CHESHIRE opened their game against Eastern division champions Cambridgeshire at Wisbech in the four-day **Minor Counties championship play-off** on Sunday in fine style, reaching 372-9 then taking an early wicket.

Oulton Park's Rick Moore was the star of the day with an unbeaten 175 off 253 balls containing 25 fours. He added 156 for the third wicket with Khalid Sawas, 79 and then 75 with Lee Dixon, 49.

Moore has been in great form lately, scoring his maiden county ton against Shropshire at Nantwich in August and missing three figures by one run for Oulton Park at Sale on Saturday. Cambridge were 36-1 at the close of play, then lost two early wickets on Monday to Adam Syddall and Scott Kirwin. They were 38-3 at 11 a.m.

Play continues on Tuesday and Wednesday from 10.30 a.m. daily.

Neston all-rounder Andy Clarke made his debut in place of James Duffy. Team: Danny Woods (York, captain), Jonny Kettle (Nantwich, wicket-keeper), Scott Kirwin, Danny Berry (Hyde), Andy Clarke (Neston), Jack Williams, Warren Goodwin, Lee Dixon (Chester Boughton Hall), Rick Moore (Oulton Park), Khalid Sawas (Macclesfield), Adam Syddall (Urmston).

FINAL DAY'S play in the **ECB t20 knock-out** is at the Brit Oval on Friday when the order of play will be: Wimbledon v Banbury (12.30 pm); Chester le Street v Ormskirk (3.25 pm). The final is at 7.10 p.m. The full day's play is on Sky television.

THE final of the **Kingfisher Beers Cup** (aka National Club knockout) is at the Emirates, Durham on Sunday, September 15 at 11 am when Ealing (Middlesex County League) take on West Indian Cavaliers (Nottingham Premier League). In the semi-finals, Ealing beat Swardeston by seven wickets and Cavaliers eliminated South Northumberland by four wickets.

Alistair Davies's Umpires Quiz: Week 21

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION: The batsman is not ready when the bowler starts his run up. However, the bowler delivers the ball, the batsman attempts to play it and makes contact with the ball which is caught by a fielder. There is an appeal. Should the batsman be given out?

ANSWER: If the batsman had made no attempt to play the ball he would have been protected by the Laws. However, by playing at the ball he relinquished that right and would be out Caught. **Law 32.1**

THIS WEEK: A short-pitched delivery gets stuck in the visor of the batsman's helmet. As he removes the ball, it slips from his grasp and makes contact with the wicket causing a bail to fall. There is an appeal. If you were the umpire, what decision would you give?

Two battle for Scrimgeour Trophy

UP to and including games on Saturday, August 31 only 10 points separated leaders Neston from Chester Boughton Hall at the top of the **Aggregate table**, the prize for which will be the new Sandy Scrimgeour Trophy.

The Top 12 with two weeks to go were:

| | 1st XI pts | 2nd XI pts | Total pts |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. NESTON | 398 | 384 | 782 |
| 2. CHESTER BO. HALL | 386 | 326 | 772 |
| 3. TIMPERLEY | 429 | 281 | 710 |
| 4. TATTENHALL | 349 | 356 | 705 |
| 5. CHEADLE | 267 | 433 | 700 |
| 6. GRAPPENHALL | 302 | 384 | 686 |
| 7= STOCKPORT | 360 | 314 | 674 |
| 7= HYDE | 333 | 341 | 674 |
| 9. DAVENHAM | 345 | 324 | 669 |
| 10. ALDERLEY EDGE | 292 | 356 | 648 |

O Grappenhall and Neston shared top place in the 2nd XI Premier Division table after games on Saturday, August 31. The teams meet on the season's final day at Broad Lane. Sale are relegated. Cheadle have won the First Division title and are promoted, while Irby and Oulton Park are relegated. Bredbury St. Mark's are promoted from Division 2.

Neston have won Saturday Division One with Cheadle Hulme and Irby relegated. Didsbury have won Division Two with Irby relegated.

The Sunday Division 3 title has gone to Didsbury and Division 3 West to Northwich.

