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**CHESHIRE COUNTY
CRICKET LEAGUE**



2012 season: September 15 Newsletter

URMSTON & WIDNES RELEGATED

Nantwich complete title hat-trick

NANTWICH completed a richly-deserved hat-trick of **ECB Premier League** championships on a momentous final day at Toft when they chalked up their eighth victory in nine completed games since the season's halfway mark. They finish 12 points clear of Hyde, who also won their final game, at Marple.

Receiving the trophy from League chairman David Humpage after the close of play, Nantwich skipper Andy Newton told a large crowd: "It has been a wonderful run-in for us to win this trophy a third time. We have done it in a different way, with some different players, but it's been just as satisfying".

Amid rumours that he intends to stand down rather than try to top the hat-trick records of Bowdon (2002-03-04) and Oulton Park (2005-6-7), the Dabbers' popular skipper said he planned to go on holiday to Portugal to contemplate.

His team looked in trouble when they were reduced to 70-6, Jonny Kettle 26, by Toft's young spinners, but a chancy 29 – the top innings of the day - by paceman Jimmy Warrington and Sam Hunt's useful 21 helped them limp to 126. For Toft, Jimmy Lomas claimed 6-82 and Rob Jones 3-25.

On a poor wicket shorn of all grass and with crumbling dust, Toft were reduced to 7-5 by Nantwich's pacemen. England junior Jones, 28 and Ed Stubbs, 21, put up mature resistance, but were eventually were no match for the varied attack of Chris Connolly, who wound up with 5-27, left-arm spinner Ollie Griffiths, 2-9 off 12 accurate overs and the league's top wicker-taker Warrington, 2-15 as they fell to 80 all out.

In a direct spin-off from this game, the four bowling points Toft collected resulted in the relegation of Urmston who beat Oxton by 103 runs to finish with the same number of points as Toft, but with one fewer win. Lewis Jackson and Samit Panda both scored 61 in Urmston's 249-9, Gayan Fernando 5-60. Off-the-boil Oxton were then bowled out for 146, Adam Syddall 6-72 and Matt Parkinson 4-24.

Tie sees Didsbury escape drop

Didsbury escaped the drop in a remarkable finish to their home game against Alderley Edge who scored 187 batting first, Callum Rowe 77, Jonny Fawcett 4-35. After a cracking knock of 79 from South African Johan van Schalkwyck, Didsbury's reply looked like ending in defeat before heroic last pair Callum McKay (five not out from 17 balls) and Andy Windle (seven not out from 24 balls) stood firm in a last wicket stand worth many more than 12, to level the scores at 187-9, and earn 18 crucial tie points and safety.

Widnes who take the wooden spoon after a 98 runs defeat at home to Chester. Boughton Hall posted the day's top score of 280-5, Kumar Sarna 98 not out, Steve Ogilby 53, to which Widnes replied with 182, Andy Ford 48, Sam Agarwal 43, Alex Kegg 4-42. Teenage spinner Jack Williams took 2-93 and topped 50 wickets for the first time.

Hyde clinched runners-up honours with a hard-earned two wickets win at Marple where not many visiting teams succeed. They bowled Marple out for 136, tail-end batsman Steve Worrall top-scoring with 30, Tom Young 4-34, Scott Kirwin 4-44. Hyde replied with 139-8, Chris Tipper contributing a key 46 against Matt Shelton, 3-16 and Joe Cash, 3-32. Often so unlucky with the rain in their bid to win the premiership for the first time, Hyde have become the Nearly Men, also finishing runners-up in the RedInsureT20 and Cheshire Cup finals. Their turn will surely come.

Macclesfield skipper Barney Cutbill ended his 1st XI career in a blaze of glory with a match-winning performance of 7-59 to end a bad run and defeat Neston by 14 runs at Victoria road. Rob Porter top-scored with 41 in Macc's 165, Paul Stimson taking 6-38 off 19 accurate overs. Apart from Luke Camden, 30 and bowler Chris Finegan, 29 not out, the Neston batting again failed and they were all out for 151, Cutbill receiving good support from Ian Tate, 3-31.

Says Barney: "It's true: I'm finishing in the 1st XI and shall play less cricket. I have enjoyed every minute of my time in the Premier League and hope I have helped to encourage a really good team spirit. I wish my successor well".

No, it wasn't our wettest season !

MANY clubs will feel that the season just ended was the League's wettest on record – wrong!

That was back in 1983 when 42 out of 182 1st XI fixtures in the format which then existed were abandoned or cancelled = 23.per cent. In 2012, a total of 63 out of 396 fixtures in the three senior divisions suffered a similar fate at just over 16 per cent, although many games registered as draws were rain-reduced.

DIVISION 1

Irby and Bollington go down

IRBY and Bollington have been relegated from the **First Division** following the final round of games, enabling Brooklands to escape by a hairsbreadth.

Heaton Mersey worked their way clear with a key 22 runs home victory over Irby, posting 149-9, Waqar Rashid 43 not out, Robbie Houghton 3-32. Irby, who finish bottom, were bowled out for 127, D. Gallian 35, Rashid Amin taking 4-38 off 20 overs and Rashid 3-27.

Bollington were left with a tough task to win at home to Bowdon and they were no match for the champions, losing by 82 runs. Bowdon made it 16 wins – more than any other club in the league – by totting up 204-5, Glen Parker 99 not out, then dismissing their hosts for 122, Mo Ali 31, Zafir Patel returning a best of the day 8-52 off 19 overs.

Brooklands lost by nine wickets at Bramhall, finishing level on points with Bollington, but escape relegation through having won one game more than their rivals.

Bramhall 200 points from last eight games

Nick Cantello's team made it eight straight wins to finish in third place, with another impressive performance. They bowled Brooklands out for 143, John Birchall 63, Nick Bell 5-45, then waltzed home on 145-1, Matt Hughes 51.

Oulton Park finish fourth after a winning draw against promoted Grappenhall. Danny Leech, 48 and Martyn East, 46 top-scored in Park's 215-7, Grappenhall replying with 192-8, James McCoy 57, East 4-25.

There was a spectacular finish to Cheadle Hulme's game against Sale at Grove Park. Hulme racked up a useful 220-7, Adam Wilde 65, Jordan Potts 46, Tax Tharson 4-39. Sale were 193-3 in reply after Danny Halkon, 89 and Jamal Benzafar, 45 had put on 111 for the fourth wicket. Ewan McCray then got to work with his canny off-breaks to take 6-50 and send the last seven Sale batmen back for 15 runs as they collapsed to 208.

Bredbury St. Mark's can take great credit for winning by 27 runs at Christleton to finish in the top half. They totalled 140 after number 11 batsman John Usher had top scored with 25 to carry the tally from 103-9, Iro De Silva 5-45. Christleton were then bowled out for 113, Chris Wood taking 5-39.

DIVISION 2

Middlewich champions ... shock Upton relegation

THERE was a thrilling end to the **Second Division** season at Haddon Field where Middlewich drew with Cheadle to see the two clubs finish level on points in the two promotion positions. It was Middlewich who took the crown by the slenderest of margins, both winning 12 games, while Cheadle had lost twice, against the solitary setback suffered by James Cornford's team against Warrington.

There were some tense closing overs, Middlewich pacing their reply at 152-7, Jonny Powers 48, Cornford 43 not out in 95 minutes, Matt Grose 4-49, to collect six points. This was in reply to Cheadle's 182-8, Paul Sperring 54, Gavin Tomlinson 4-67, Stephen Parry 3-56, which paved the way to a tally of 11 points..

At the other end of the table, there was a nasty shock waiting for Upton after they lost their final game, by six wickets at home to Timperley. They learned that Alvanley had won by 20-0 points at Stockport to leave them high and dry in 11th place and relegated. Upton declared at 200-4 in 47 overs, Mark Priaulx 58, Jared van Heerden 46, only for Timperley to run out six wickets winners at 201-4, Craig Grindley 62.

Upton have been popular and successful members of the League since arriving from the Merseyside Competition in 1993 and their many admirers will hope they make a speedy return from the Meller Braggins Cheshire League.

The same goes for Malpas, who go down having made a host of friends in the past two seasons, notably with their excellent facilities and administration. They lost by 66 runs at home to Stockport Georgians, for whom Simon Normanton, 64 and 4-46, completed an outstanding season.

Alvanley's rally

Andy Bennion's Alvanley won by nine wickets at Stockport, who had one of their off-days, being dismissed for 58, Chris Charles 5-19. Alvanley came good at the right time, collecting 50 points from their last two games.

Poynton wind up a creditable third after beating Congleton (108 all out, Jye Bailey 58, Jake Turner 5-36) by five wickets at Stockport road. Useful young Aussie, Turner contributed an unbeaten 45 in Poynton's reply.

Warrington secured fourth spot with a winning draw at home to Tattenhall. Warrington closed on 171-6, Paul Farrar 43 and Tattenhall held out at 101-9, Ian Richards 46, Kyle Adams claiming 5-18 off 20 accurate overs. The North Melbourne quick bowler winds up with 87 wickets, a divisional record and the best in the league since Mark Symms had a similar haul for Nantwich in 1996.

Saturday's details

ECB PREMIER LEAGUE

DIDSBURY (won toss) v ALDERLEY EDGE:

Alderley Edge 187 (55 overs: C Rowe 77, A. Worrall 36, J. Fawcett 4-35, N. Anderson 3-47);

Didsbury 187-9 (55 overs: J. Van Schalkwyck 79, P. Critchley 36, N. Anderson 28, T. Forman 3-25).

Level scores draw: Didsbury 18 tie pts., Alderley Edge 10 draw pts.

MACCLESFIELD (toss) v NESTON

Macclesfield 165 (53 overs: R. Porter 41, A. Hodgson 34, P. Stimson 6-38);

Neston 151 (- overs: L. Camden 30, C. Finegan 29no, B. Cutbill 7-59, I. Tait 3-31).

Macclesfield (25 pts.) beat Neston (4 pts.) by 14 runs

MARPLE (toss) v HYDE:

Marple 136 (51 overs: S. Worrall 30no, J. Ormond 29, J. Cash 27, T. Young 4-34, S Kirwin 4-44);

Hyde 139-8 (41 overs: C. Tipper 46, D. Berry 29, J. Cash 3-32).

Hyde (25 pts.) beat Marple (3 pts.) by 2 wickets

TOFT (toss) v NANTWICH:

Nantwich 126 (49 overs: J. Warrington 29, J. Kettle 26, J. Lomas 6-82, R. Jones 3-24);

Toft 80 (36 overs: R. Jones 28, E. Stubbs 21, C. Connolly 5-27).

Nantwich (25 pts.) beat Toft (4 pts.) by 46 runs

URMSTON v OXTON (toss):

Urmston 249-9 (55 overs: L. Jackson 61, S. Panda 61, G. Fernando 5-60);

Oxton 146 (36 overs: A. Syddall 6-72, M. Parkinson 4-24).

Urmston (25 pts.) beat Oxton (4 pts.) by 103 runs

WIDNES (toss) v CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL:

Chester 280-5 (55 overs: K. Sarna 98no, S Ogilby 53, W Goodwin 45, L. Dixon 44, M. Nalesnyik 3-104);

Widnes 182 (52 overs: A Ford 45, A. Kegg 4-42).

Chester Boughton Hall (25 pts.) beat Widnes (4 pts.) by 98 runs

FIRST DIVISION

BOLLINGTON (won toss) v BOWDON:

Bowdon 204-5 (50 overs: G. Parker 99no);

Bollington 122 (30 overs: M. Ali 31, Z. Patel 8-52).

Bowdon (25pts.) beat Bollington (2 pts.) by 82 runs

BRAMHALL (toss) v BROOKLANDS:

Brooklands 143 (43 overs: J. Birchall 63, N. Bell 5-45, T. Dean 3-14);

Bramhall 145-1 (- overs: M. Hughes 51, M. Jamieson 33, T Dean 47).

Bramhall (25 pts.) beat Brooklands (2 pts.) by 9 wickets

CHEADLE HULME v SALE (toss):

Cheadle Hulme 220-7 (50 overs: A. Wilde 65, J Potts 46, T.Tharsen 4-39);

Sale 208 (49 overs: D. Halkon 89, J. Benzafar 45, E. McCray 6-50, C. Beckley 3-28).

Cheadle Hulme (25 pts.) beat Sale (7 pts.) by 12 runs

CHRISTLETON v BREDBURY ST. MARK'S (toss):

Bredbury 140 (50 overs: J. Usher 25, I. De Silva 5-45, I. Naseer 4-47);

Christleton 113 (33 overs: C. Wood 5-39).

Bredbury St. Mark's (25 pts.) beat Christleton (4 pts.) by 27 runs

GRAPPENHALL v OULTON PARK (toss):

Oulton Park 215-7 (50 overs: D. Leech 48, M. East 46, L. Parkinson 3-35);

Grappenhall 192-8 (50 overs: J McCoy 57, R. Green 34, M. East 4-245).

Match drawn: Oulton Park 13 pts., Grappenhall 8 pts.

HEATON MERSEY v IRBY (toss)

Heaton Mersey 149-9 (50 overs: H Rashid 43no, R. Houghton 3-32);

Irby 127 (- overs: D. Gallan 35, R. Amin 4-38, H. Rashid 3-27).

Heaton Mersey (25 pts.) beat Irby (4 pts.) by 22 runs

SECOND DIVISION

MALPAS (won toss) v STOCKPORT GEORGIANS:
Stockport Georgians 193-9 (50 overs: S. Normanton 64, A. Stubbs 4-25);
Malpas 127 (32 overs: A. Stubbs 39, I. Hussein 5-23, S Normanton 4-46).
Stockport Georgians (25 pts.) beat Malpas (4 pts.) by 66 runs

MIDDLEWICH (toss) v CHEADLE:
Cheadle 182-8 (50 overs: P. Sperring 54, G. Dixon 37, G. Tomlinson 4-67, S. Parry 3-56);
Middlewich 152-7 (50 overs: J. Powers 48, J.Cornford 43no, A Cole 34. M. Grose 4-49).
Match drawn: Cheadle 11 pts., Middlewich 6 pts.

POYNTON (toss) v CONGLETON:
Congleton 108 (33 overs: J Bailey 58, J. Turner 5-36, D. Williams 3-14);
Poynton 110-5 (17 overs: J Turner 44no, R Booth 3-16).
Poynton (25 pts.) beat Congleton (2 pts.) by 5 wickets.

STOCKPORT v ALVANLEY (toss)
Stockport 58 (35 overs: C. Charles 5-19, N. Geddis 3-10);
Alvanley 58-1 (12 overs, A. Bennion 21no. N. Geddis 20).
Alvanley (25 pts.) beat Stockport (0 pts.) by 9 wickets.

UPTON v TIMPERLEY (toss)
Upton 200-4 dec. (47 overs: M. Priaulx 58, J. van Heerden 46, D. Warburton 43, G.Dixon 32);
Timperley 201-4 (- overs: C. Grindley 59, M. Macquet 46, M. Porthouse 44no).
Timperley (25 pts.) beat Upton (9 pts.) by 6 wickets.

WARRINGTON v TATTENHALL (toss)
Warrington 171-6 (50 overs: P. Farrar 43, M. Agar 42, M. Dobson 3-26);
Tattenhall 101-9 (50 overs: I Richards 46, K. Adams 5-18, P. Farrar 3-15).
Match drawn: Warrington 11 pts., Tattenhall 4 pts.

PICK OF WEEK

Premier Division. Batting:oK. Sarna (CBH) 98no v Widnes. Bowling: B.Cutbill (Macclesfield) 7-59 v Neston.

First Division. Batting: D. Halkon (Sale) 89 v Cheadle Hulme. Bowling: Z. Patel (Bowdon) 8-52 v Bollington

Second Division. S. Normanton (Stockport Georgians) 64 v Malpas. Bowling: oK. Adams (Warrington) 5-18 v Tattenhall.

oo

Leading individual stats to September 8 (o = overseas player)

PREMIER LEAGUE top five batsmen: K.Sawas (Macclesfield) 923 runs; D.Berry (Hyde) 841; L.Dixon (CBH) 761; oA.McGuinness (Marple) 720; oJ Hancock (Toft) 690.

Top five bowlers: J. Warrington (Nantwich) 56 wickets; A. Birley (Oxton) 52; J. Whittaker (Alderley Edge) 51; A. Greasley (Marple) and Jack Williams (CBH) both 49.

Wicket-keepers: A. Worrall (Alderley Edge) and J. Kettle (Nantwich) both 23c & 4 st = 27 victims.

FIRST DIVISION batting: R. Moore (Oulton Park) 1,089 runs; oW. Lubbe (Sale) 843; I. De Silva (Christleton) 728; S. Marshall (Bowdon) 693; oP. Vermeulen (Heaton Mersey) 603.

Bowling: R. Houghton (Irby) 50 wickets; R. Halkon (Sale) 47; S. Wilkinson (Bramhall) 46; G Edwards (Bowdon) 44; G. Emmett (Oulton Park) and A.J. Hart (Brooklands both 43.

Wicket-keeper: oP. Vermeulen (Heaton Mersey) 22c & 4 st = 26 victims.

SECOND DIVISION batting: oJ. Bailey (Congleton) 634 runs; oT. Hyslop (Tattenhall) 574; J. Cornford 527; oM. Macquet (Timperley) 517; oK. Turner (Poynton) 487.

Bowling: oK. Adams (Warrington) 82 wickets; G. Tomlinson (Middlewich) 51; T Facer (Stockport) 45; I Grindley (Timperley) 44; S. Normanton (Stockport Georgians) 43. Record: A. Greasley (Marple) with 83 wickets in 2010.

Wicket-keepers: M. Rudd (Warrington) 21c; R. Sandford (Tattenhall) 18c & 3 st = both 21 victims.

2012 final tables

(2011 placings in parenthesis)

<u>ECB Premier</u>	P	W (25)	T (18)	D (2)	A/C (7)	L	BAT	BOWL	TOTAL
1. NANTWICH (1)	22	11	0	3	4	4	17	18	344 champions
2. HYDE (3)	22	9	0	4	4	5	51	20	332
3. CHESTER BH (2)	22	10	0	4	0	8	28	28	314
4. MACCLESFIELD (5)	22	10	0	1	3	8	16	15	304
5. MARPLE (-)	22	8	0	6	5	3	30	20	297
6. OXTON (4)	22	8	0	2	5	7	29	24	292
7. ALDERLEY ED. (10)	22	6	0	6	4	6	36	36	262
8. DIDSBURY (8)	22	5	1	2	5	9	25	24	231
9. NESTON (9)	22	6	0	3	3	10	22	30	229
10. TOFT (7)	22	6	0	5	1	10	18	42	227
11. URMSTON (6)	22	5	0	3	4	10	44	24	227
12. WIDNES (-)	22	6	0	0	6	10	12	20	224

Widnes and Urmston relegated to Division 1

Didsbury v Alderley Edge on September 15 was level scores draw: Didsbury 18 tie pts.; Alderley Edge 10 pts.

<u>Division 1</u>	P	W (25)	T (18)	D (2)	C (7)	L	BAT	BOWL	TOTAL
1. BOWDON (6)	22	16	0	0	3	3	10	3	434 champions
2. GRAPPENHALL (-)	22	11	0	2	4	5	25	18	350
3. BRAMHALL (7)	22	10	1	2	4	5	8	13	321
4. OULTON PARK (-)	22	6	0	8	2	6	68	34	282
5. CHRISTLETON (8)	22	7	0	4	3	8	35	35	274
6. BREDBURY StM (-)	22	5	0	6	4	7	66	35	266
7. SALE (3)	22	7	0	3	6	6	19	20	262
8. CHEADLE HM. (5)	22	6	0	3	4	9	22	29	235
9. HEATON MY. (10)	22	6	0	4	4	8	17	21	224
10. BROOKLANDS (-)	22	5	0	7	1	9	27	32	205
11. BOLLINGTON (4)	22	4	0	5	6	7	31	22	205
12. IRBY (9)	22	3	0	3	3	13	46	41	189

Bowdon and Grappenhall promoted to ECB Premier League.

Bollington and Irby relegated to Division 2

Bredbury v Bramhall on June 16 was level scores draw: Bramhall 18 tie pts. Bredbury 11 pts.

<u>Division 2</u>	P	W (25)	D (2)	C (7)	L	BAT	BOWL	TOTAL
1. MIDDLEWICH (8)	22	12	7	2	1	14	28	370 champions
2. CHEADLE (-)	22	12	3	5	2	14	15	370
3. POYNTON (-)	22	11	4	4	3	24	20	355
4. WARRINGTON (3)	22	10	3	4	5	26	25	335
5. CONGLETON (10)	22	8	3	4	7	26	22	282
6. TIMPERLEY (6)	22	8	2	3	9	25	26	276
7. STOCKPORT (9)	22	7	8	2	5	35	31	271
8. STOCKPORT G. (7)	22	5	5	5	7	17	33	220
9. ALVANLEY (-)	22	5	3	1	13	27	44	209
10. TATTENHALL (5)	22	5	5	3	9	18	26	200
11. UPTON (4)	22	4	3	4	11	33	29	196
12. MALPAS (11)	22	1	3	2	16	31	34	110

Middlewich and Cheadle promoted to Division 2.

Upton and Malpas relegated to Meller Braggins Cheshire League.

Weaverham and Davenham promoted from Meller Braggins Cheshire League.

September 8 pitch & outfield marks

ECB Premier League

Alderley Edge v Toft: Pitch – 5-4-5-4 = 18; Outfield - 5-4-5-5 = 19
Chester v Macclesfield: 5-5-5-5 = 20; 5-5-4-5 = 19.
Didsbury v Marple: 4-4-4-5 = 17; 4-4-5-5 = 18.
Nantwich v Urmston: 5-4-4-4 = 17; 5-4-5-5 = 19
Neston v Hyde: 4-3-4-4 = 15; 5-5-4-5 = 19.
Oxton v Widnes: 4-4-5-4 = 17; 5-5-5-5 = 20.

First Division

Bowdon v Heaton Mersey: 4-4-4-3 (turn) = 14; 5-5-5-5 = 29.
Bredbury v Brooklands: *no result sheet*
Cheadle Hulme v Bramhall: 4-5-4-4 = 17; 4-3-5-4 = 16.
Irby v Grappenhall: 5-4-5-4 = 18; 5-5-5-5 = 20.
Oulton Park v Christleton: 4-4-5-4 = 17; 4-4-5-5 = 18.
Sale v Bollington: 5-4-4-5 = 18; 4-5-5-5 = 19.

Second Division

Alvanley v Warrington: *no result sheet*
Cheadle v Poynton: 4-5-4-4 = 17; 4-5-5-5 = 19 *This result was not telephoned.*
Congleton v Upton: 5-5-4-5 = 19; 3-5-5-5 = 18.
Stockport v Malpas: 4-4-4-4 = 16; 5-5-5-5 = 20.
Tattenhall v Middlewich: 5-5-5-5 = 20; 5-5-5-5 = 20- FULL HOUSE!
Timperley v Stockport Georgians: 4-4-4-4 = 16; 5-5-4-5 = 19.

Widnes (1st XI) and Chester (2nd XI) failed to submit their umpires' reports to coordinator Ken Spilsbury. All reports from Saturday, September 15 should be sent in by Wednesday this week

League dinner on October 5

CLUBS are given a final reminder reminded about the League's **38th Annual Presentation Dinner** at Mere Golf & Country Club on Friday, October 5 (7 for 7.30 p.m.).. Guest speaker is former World Cup referee Graham Poll and MC is John Gwynne, Tickets are £30 or £28 for under 18s.

All trophies due for presentation at the dinner need to be returned to League Secretary Geoff Wellsted as soon as possible. They should be engraved to date and cleaned.

O Players Player of the Year ballot forms have been despatched inviting all 1st XI cricketers to vote for the players of their choice. Seventeen out of a possible 36 returns have come in so far from Alderley Edge, Didsbury, Hyde, Macclesfield, Marple and Toft (Premiership); Bowdon, Heaton Mersey, Irby and Sale (Division 1), Congleton, Malpas, Middlewich, Poynton, Tattenhall, Timperley and Warrington (Division 2). **Please keep them coming.**

Deaths of cricketers

O DEATH has occurred of David Seed, aged 94, President Emeritus of Mobberley, CCL full members from 1998-2011. David was a noted after dinner speaker and superb raconteur. All teams observed a minute's silence before their games on September 8 and the club flag was flown at half-mast over the week-end.

A well-known former Warrington and Alvanley cricketer and Lancashire and Cheshire hockey player, Ted Nuttall has died aged 87. His cremation will take place at Walton Lea on Tuesday, September 17 at 11.40 a.m.

The deaths have also taken place of long-serving Ashley members Arthur Lamont and Geoff Medford, the latter a former Cheshire Cat who lived in Canada.

The funeral of former Bramhall player and umpire Jack Higginbottom-Jones, whose death was reported last week, is at Stockport Crematorium, Buxton Road, Stockport, on Saturday, September 22 at 11.30 am, followed by a wake at Bramhall CC.

O AN eight-week Level One Umpires course is to be held at Hale Barns CC starting on Tuesday, October 16, costing £40. For full details contact David Lawson, tel. 01606 765 587 or Geoff Young 01352 755 881.

O CHESHIRE Cricket Board invite senior players to complete a survey on cricket in the county. They can do so by tabbing into: <http://www.cheshirecricketboard.co.uk/survey.htm>

O UMPIRES & Scorers Association's end of season meeting is at Sale on Wednesday, September 19 (8 p.m.). A novel feature will be a Q&A session with three leading captains: James Duffy (Cheshire), Gareth Edwards (Bowdon) and Paul Sperring (Cheadle). It will be followed by a hot pot at the subsidised cost of £2 per head.

O SEEKING an overseas player from the League after a late withdrawal are Thomson CC from Geelong near Melbourne. Previous Cheshire players to have enjoyed winters at Thomson include Andy Hall, Danny Leech, Jonny Kettle, Chris Davies and Louis Bentley. Air fare, accommodation and work are offered. E-mail contact is jaybowman41@hotmail.com

O CORNWALL beat Buckinghamshire by 150 runs at Truro from Sunday to Wednesday last week to win the Minor Counties championship play-off. Scores: Cornwall 257 and 209; Bucks 205 and 111.

O A LANCASHIRE team including Nantwich's Louis Bentley beat Durham by 76 runs at Northern last Thursday in the 2nd XI T20 Trophy final.

Over 40s trophy shared after rain

THE **Over 40s** season ended in typical style on Sunday – spoiled by heavy rain – when it was agreed to share the play-off final trophy between host club Urmston Tigers and Alsager Dabbers .

Both teams won comfortably in their semi-finals. Urmston, unbeaten North-East group champions beat West group winners Neston by six wickets on the main ground. They replied with 130-4 (Cartwright 32, Fenton 27, Donelan 2-17) to Neston's-125-7 (Silvray 30, Egerton 27, Patel 2-8, Pollard 2-1).

On the second ground, unbeaten South-East group top dogs Bollington Veteran were restricted to 79-9 (McKernan 17, Stancliffe 2-13, Newton 2-14), and Alsager Dabbers, who had topped the Central section, replied with 80-2 (Price 30).

In the final, Alsager mustered 112-8 from their 20 overs, Andy Newton 34, Alan Stancliffe 24 not out, D. Patel 2-16, John P:ollard 2-19, Kurt Edginton 2-34. The Dabbers were 4-1 in the second over when rain took control.

Both captains preferred to share the trophy rather than attempt a bowl out in wet conditions and captains Wayne Morgan and John Pollard were jointly presented with the handsome new silverware by Peter Barrett, representing sponsors TailorMade Pensions group. He was thanked for his company's financial support by League chairman David Humpage, who praised Urmston for staging the event, together with umpires Barrie Burns, Dion Kelly, Stuart Anderson and Jon Hacking and the scorers and also remarked on the fine teas.

Over 40s secretary and Finals Day organiser Mike Talbot-Butler commented on the consistent play of the four group winners throughout the season and named Urmston's Steve Espley as winner of the man of the match champagne for his stylish wicket-keeping which earned him four stumping victims in the two games.

SPECIAL MEETING

A reminder is offered of the mandatory special Over 40s meeting to be held at Warrington Sports Club on Thursday, October 11 (7.15 p.m.).

On the agenda will be the format for 2013, plus resignations and applications and changes to rule.

All correspondence should be directed to mike.t-b@virgin.net.

Sixties in last four again

WINNERS of the **Spitfire 60 Plus county championship** in 2001 and 2011, Cheshire reached the semi-finals again last Tuesday when they beat Buckinghamshire by 46 runs in a game switched from Marple to Timperley.

Skipper Andy Hurworth offers warm thanks to Timperley for taking the match at short notice with Marple's pitch unfit after more week-end rain.

Recovering from 7-4, Cheshire did well to total 168-7 in a reduced 35 overs, Cheadle Hulme's John Edwards, batting at nine, top-scoring with 62, aided by Ian Brown, 29 and Chris Lees, 28. Bucks replied with 122-9, David Cain 3-28, Dick Powell 3-28, Howard Morris 2-15.

The semi-final sees Cheshire take on old rivals Derbyshire at West Hallam, near Ilkeston, on Tuesday this week (12.noon).

Meller Braggins Cheshire League finale

RESULTS of final games in the **Meller Braggins Cheshire League** First Division on Saturday:

Davenham 202-5 dec. Runcorn 142

Hale Barns 158-6 dec. Northwich 159-6

Lindow 111 Ashton on Mersey 114-4

Oakmere 100-6 Mobberley 176-8 dec.

Prestbury 136-3 Ashley 178-9 dec.

Winnington Park 198-3 Weaverham 201-1.

FINAL placings: 1. Weaverham 454 points champions and promoted; 2. Davenham 409 runners-up and promoted; 3. Mobberley 272; 4. Hale Barns 271; 5. Ashton on Mersey 263; 6. Runcorn 258; 7. Oakmere 256; 8. Prestbury 255; 9. Northwich 255; 10. Winnington Park 250; 11. Ashley 243 relegated; 12. Lindow 203 relegated.

In Division Two Chester County Officers are champions and promoted with runners-up Romiley. Winsford and Trafford are relegated. In Division Three, Chelford (champions) and Langley are promoted and Stretton and Glazebury are relegated to the Cheshire Alliance.

The League Presentation Dinner is at the Cresta Court Hotel, Altrincham on Friday, October 19, when the guest speaker is former Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Somerset bowler Peter Bowler. Tickets are £28.

2012 season ups and downs

ECB Premier League champions:	NANTWICH
Runners-up:	HYDE
Relegated to Division 1:	WIDNES and URMSTON
First Division champions:	BOWDON
Runners-up and promoted:	GRAPPENHALL
Relegated to Division 2:	IRBY and BOLLINGTON
Second Division champions:	MIDDLEWICH
Runners-up and promoted:	CHEADLE
Relegated to Meller Braggins Cheshire League	MALPAS and UPTON
Aggregate Trophy winners:	MIDDLEWICH
Meller Braggins Cheshire League First Division champions and promoted:	WEAVERHAM
Runners-up and promoted:	DAVENHAM
RedInsure T20 Trophy winners:	*NESTON
Runners-up:	HYDE
Semi-finalists:	DIDSBURY and GRAPPENHALL
<i>*Neston went on to win the ECB t20 Area final, then lost in the Regional final.</i>	
TailorMade Group Pensions O40s play-off joint winners:	ALSAGER DABBERS & URMSTON TIGERS
Semi-finalists	BOLLINGTON VETERANS & NESTON
Cheshire Cup winners	CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL
Runners-up:	HYDE
Cheshire Shield winners:	OULTON PARK
Runners-up:	STOCKPORT

*Details of winners and losers in all the 2nd XI and 3rd XI Divisions
will be reported by the respective Results Secretaries*

TO BE NAMED AT PRESENTATION DINNER:

- O Most Improved Club of Year*
- O Best Performance Award for August & September*
- O ECB Premierhip, Division 1 and Division 2 Players of Year*
- O Young Player of Year*
- O Umpire of Year*
- O Fair Play champions*

Last word (of season)

M&WTB hope readers have enjoyed the 2012 *Newsletter* as we sign off at the end of a busy and extremely wet 38th season.

Warm thanks are expressed to many correspondents, especially those involved in the Saturday evening, RedInsure T20 mid-week and Over 40s phone-ins; umpires appointments supremo Jon Hacking, club press officers and others who have helped to fill the pages.

God Willing we hope to bring out further epistles at roughly six-weekly intervals during the so-called close season. The next will cover all the Presentation Dinner revelations in early-October.

Mike.t-b@virgin.net: September 18, 2012