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**CHESHIRE COUNTY
CRICKET LEAGUE**



October 2012 Newsletter

18 clubs rewarded at great night out

NO fewer than 18 clubs received team or individual awards when 240 players, officials and guests enjoyed the League's annual Presentation Dinner at The Mere.

Three clubs were handed four awards each, Middlewich receiving the prestigious Henderson Rose Bowl as Most Improved Club of the Year, while their 1st XI lost just one game winning the Second Division title, their 2nd XI were runners-up in the First Division and will be playing premiership cricket at this level for the first time in 2013. These successes enabled Middlewich to top the Aggregate table for the first time and, to wind up a season to remember, they clinched the Sunday Division 3 West title by a margin of 162 points..

Middlewich also saw their pitch marks lift from sixth to second (behind Christleton) and their Fair Play placing improved from 19th to 12th.

Chairman Gavin Tomlinson received the trophy from League president Stan Davies and later commented: "We have worked hard at all levels of the club for these successes and the trick now is to do as well next season. We are specially proud of our ground which is where most teams in the league enjoy playing".

Short listed for the award were Chedale, who also collected multi trophies (Division 2 runner-up, 3rd and 4th XI championships, 2nd and 3rd XI cups) and up-graded their ground. Bowdon, Grappenhall, Oxton and Poynton all received commendations for their playing improvements.

Individual awards

The ECB Premier League Player of Year (Keith Belfield Memorial Trophy) was won by Macclesfield batsman Khalid Sawas who scored most premiership runs (942) including three fifties and three centuries. He also did well for Cheshire, scoring 518 runs in the championship and 212 in the knock out cup, ending up as the leading Minor Counties batsman.

Voting from 11 clubs (no return from Chester Boughton Hall) resulted

59 – K. Sawas (Macclesfield);

22 – J. Warrington (Nantwich);

8 – D. Berry (Hyde)

4 – A. Birley (Oxton); J. Williams (CBH),

3 – L. Dixon (CBH); o J.Hancock (Toft), W. Goodwin (CBH);

2 – oM. Nalesnyk (Widnes), S. Kirwin (Hyde), cL. Bentley (Nantwich);

1 – I. Tait (Macclesfield); oG. Fernando (Oxton), oA.McGuinness (Marple), L. Vincent (Oxton), N. Anderson (Didsbury), A. Greasley (Marple), C. Tipper (Hyde), J. Whittaker (Alderley Edge).

First Division Player of Year (Mark Alcroft Trophy) winner was Ric Moore (Oulton Park). Ric, who has since left the UK to play in Australia this winter, was the only league batsman to score more than 1,000 runs (1,106 at 73.33 including six fifties and four centuries). He also had successful trials with Kent, captained Bradford/Leeds University and appeared for Cheshire.

Votes were received from nine clubs (all except Bollington, Christleton and Grappenhall) as follows:

49 – R. Moore;

13 – I. De Silva (Christleton);

9 – oJ. Smith (Grappenhall);

7 – oW. Lubbe (Sale);

4 – L. McCoy (Grappenhall);

3 – R. Houghton (Irby) , S. Marshall (Bowdon);

2 – oV. Sood (Christleton);

1 – A. Kinsey (Irby), J. Birchall (Brooklands), R. Amin (Heaton Mersey), oP. Vermeulen (Heaton Mersey).

Second Division Player of Year award (Mike Talbot-Butler Statuette) went to Warrington's outstanding Aussie fast bowler Kyle Adams. He took 87 wickets at 11.39 including 10 x five-wicket hauls, breaking a divisional record. All clubs except Stockport voted as follows

- 70 - oK. Adams;
- 11 - oJ. Bailey (Congleton);
- 8 - oM. Grose (Cheadle);
- 5 - oMacquet (Timperley)
- 4 - D. Brown (Cheadle), S. Normanton (Stockport Georgians);
- 3 - oT. Hyslop (Tattenhall);
- 2 - P. Sperring (Cheadle), T. Facer (Stockport);
- 1 - P. Farrar (Warrington) R. Fisher (Alvanley), J. Suckley (Malpas), G. Tomlinson (Middlewich), C. Brady (Cheadle), J. Hughes (Warrington).

John North Trophy for Young Player of the Year was won by all-rounder Robert Jones, who took 42 wickets and scored 271 runs in Toft's successful fight against premiership relegation. In 2012, he was admitted to the Lancashire Academy and was named in England's Under 17 squad for 2012 and 2013 and will shortly leave for a tour to South Africa. Robert played regularly for England and Cheshire Under 16 and 17.

His captain Toby Drummond paid him the following tribute: "Rob is invariably the last away from the nets of an evening and is always striving to improve. He is a captain's dream in terms of contribution and effort. He is going to become a really top class spin bowler and fine batsman and I wish him well".

August & September Performance of Month award was presented by Chapel Press head Tim O'Shea to Nantwich fast bowler Jimmy Warrington, who took 8-53 in a premiership game against Macclesfield. Jimmy finished the top Premier League wicket taker for the second successive season, with a haul of 58..

Umpire of Year. Instituted in 2010 to mark the memory of the late Terry Hill, this award is normally presented to the non ECB Premier League panellist with three seasons service or less. Umpires & Scorers Association chairman Ian Greensmith named Dion Kelly as the winner explaining that he had been fast-tracked to the elite panel in 2011 and had since been outstanding. Dion was absent in Sri Lanka watching the T20 World Cup.

Fair Play Award. The Eddie Howard Memorial Shield goes to the club receiving the highest marks from panel umpires over a season based on the sportsmanship of their players (maximum 5).

Adjudicator John Lofthouse, who presented the award, reported a tie between Toft and last season's runners-up Tattenhall, both with an average mark of four. Taking into account separate marks given by umpires to captains Toft scored 4.07 and Tattenhall 4.00, Toft thus winning the award for the fourth time in seven years.

John Lofthouse remarked that the ECB would note that half of the table's bottom six were members of the Premier League.

PLACINGS

1 = Toft, Tattenhall,	4.00 (Toft won on tie-break)
3. Bowdon	3.95
4= Christleton and Irby	3.93
6. Bollington	3.92
7. Malpas	3.91
8 = Bredbury St. Mark's, Oulton Park, Stockport,	3.90
11. Sale	3.89
12. Middlewich	3.88
13. Stockport Georgians	3.87
14. Widnes	3.85
15= Heaton Mersey and Hyde	3.84
17= Macclesfield and Nantwich	3.83
19= Grappenhall and Marple,	3.79
21. Cheadle Hulme	3.75
22= Bramhall and Urmston	3.74
24. Alderley Edge	3.72
25. Warrington	3.71
26. Upton	3.70
27. Oxton	3.69
28. Congleton	3.68
29= Alvanley and Brooklands	3.67
31. Neston	3.61
32. Didsbury	3.58
33. Cheadle	3.53
34. Timperley,	3.45
35. Poynton,	3.39
36. Chester Boughton Hall	3.30.

Nantwich skipper's record chance

AFTER being presented with the ECB Premier League championship trophy, Nantwich skipper Andy Newton spoke of his club's delight at winning the top prize for a third successive season, equalling a feat previously achieved by Bowdon in 2002-3-4 and Oulton Park in 2005-6-7. He was considering whether to continue to lead his club in 2013 when they had the chance of becoming the first to carry off the title four successive years. His team had started the season badly, with only three wins by half-way, but had improved, frequently being provoked by the aggressive reaction of their opponents.

He was proud that Nantwich had 34 members present that evening.

No one was present from Grappenhall, Irby, Malpas, Poynton and Warrington and each will be fined £60 according to rule.

The toast to the League was proposed by former Marple chairman Keith McGuffie, who now plays for Elworth.

The yellow card man

Guest speaker was former World Cup and premierships referee, now *Daily Mail* columnist Graham Poll. Remarking that he felt as if he was the only person present who hadn't won a prize, Graham delighted his audience with stories of happenings and off the field in top-level football when he officiated in 1,563 games over 27 years.

He explained at length the circumstances which led to him giving three yellow cards to a Croatian player in a World Cup match against Australia in 2006. This had led to him standing down from professional refereeing, but he admitted that, disastrous though it may have been, he had 'dined out' on the story ever since and was not complaining. He autographed a batch of yellow cards for admirers.

The MC was well-known Sky sports commentator John Gwynne assisted by John Melkia. The event was organised by John Bygate, with assistance from Geoff Wellsteed, who collected and prepared the many trophies and Mike Talbot-Butler, who designed and printed the menu cards and wrote the presentation scripts. A raffle was conducted by Gary Dixon and his son Lee.

Team awards

League president Stan Davies presented the club awards from the stage. The winners were:

ECB Premier League: Nantwich; Division 1: Bowdon; Division 2: Middlewich.

2nd XI Premier Division: Toft; Division 1: Sale; Division 2: Congleton.

3rd XI Saturday Division 1: Upton; Saturday Division 2: Oxton 4; Sunday Division 1: Marple; Division 2: Urmston; Division 3 East: Cheadle; Division 4 West: Middlewich; Division 4 East: Cheadle; Division 4 West: Northwich.

RedInsure 1st XI T20 Cup: Neston; 1st XI Plate: Toft.

RedInsure 2nd XI Cup: Cheadle;

Jack Gardner 3rd XI Trophy: Cheadle.

Over 40s West group: Neston; Central group: Alsager Dabbers; North-East group Urmston Tigers; South East group: Bollington Veterans; Play-off joint winners: Alsager Dabbers and Urmston Tigers.

John North Under 17 Cup: Upton

Congratulations were offered to Neston for reaching the regional final of the ECB t20 Trophy and the last 16 in the Kingfisher Beers National Club ko; to Chester Boughton Hall for winning the Cheshire Cup; to Oulton Park for winning the Cheshire Shield and to the Cheshire county team for winning the Spitfire 60 Plus county championship for the third successive season.

Aggregate rankings

MIDDLEWICH won the Aggregate table (combined 1st and 2nd XI points) by a 36 points margin from Grappenhall, with Congleton third. Final table total points:

1. Middlewich	721 pts.
2. Grappenhall	695
3. Congleton	688
4. Oxtun	670
5. Bowdon	667
6. Poynton	666
7. Warrington	658
8. Hyde	647
9. Sale	643
10. Marple	582
11. Didsbury	581
12. Toft	578
13. Chester	579
14. Cheadle	563
15. Bredbury	555
16= Alderley Edge	544
16= Nantwich	544
18. Cheadle Hulme	532
19. Macclesfield	530
20. Irby	522
21. Heaton Mersey	507
22. Bramhall	504
23. Stockport	489
24. Christleton	487
25. Urmston	483
26. Neston	475
27. Oulton Park	464
28. Timperley	463
29. Brooklands	451
30. Upton	439
31. Stockport Geo.	436
32. Tattenhall	429
33. Bollington	391
34. Widnes	379
35. Alvanley	367
36. Malpas	179

2012 AVERAGES

FIRST XI averages for the 2012 season have been completed and will be available on the website shortly.

In the **ECB Premier League**, Louis Bentley (Nantwich) topped the batting averages with 664 runs at 66.36. Most runs were scored by Khalid Sawas (Macclesfield), with 942. A total of 17 batsman topped 500 runs.

Top of the bowling averages was the highest wicket-taker, Jimmy Warrington (Nantwich) with 58 at 12.91. Six bowlers topped 50 wickets. Adam Worrall (Alderley Edge) claimed most wicket-keeping victims with 25 catches and six stumpings. Best all-rounder was Nick Anderson (Didsbury) with 404 runs and 44 wickets.

In **Division One**, the batting averages were topped by the highest run scorer, Ric Moore (Oulton Park) with 1,106 at 73.73. A total of 15 batsmen scored 500 runs.

Mo Ali (Bollington) led the bowling list with 31 wickets at 10.61, but the leading wicket taker was Rob Houghton of relegated Irby with 53, no one else topping 50 wickets. South African Peter Vermeulen (Heaton Mersey) was the number one wicket-keeper with 26 victims. BAR was Iroshan De Silva (Christleton) with 830 runs and 32 wickets.

Congleton's Aussie Jye Bailey led the **Division Two** batting averages and run scorers with 694 at 38.55, only four others topping 500 runs. Kyle Adams (Warrington) took most wickets, with 87 at 11.39. Only one other bowler (Gavin Tomlinson, of Middlewich) topped 50 wickets. Yet another Aussie, Poynton's Jake Turner, produced the best all-round figures with 531 runs and 37 wickets, while Stockport's Sam Edwards was the top wicket keeper with 24 victims..

O Clubs are required to submit their 2nd and 3rd XI averages to the relevant Results Secretary by October 31, otherwise a fine will be levied.

Christleton top pitch & outfield tables

THE League 2012 Pitch and Outfield tables were both topped by Christleton, groundsman Brian Wareing and his aides gaining the high average marks of 18.44 and 19.90 respectively out of a maximum 20.

Middlewich were close runners-up in the Pitch table in which no clubs fell below an average of 13, whereas three had done so in 2011.

In the Outfield chart, Christleton gained only one mark below 20. Neston were a close runner-up on 19.86. Bottom were Bollington on 15.49, with no club averaging below 15

The tables have been devised by Ground chairman John Bygate from reports made by panel umpires on the weekly result sheets.

PITCH PLACINGS

1. Christleton	18.44
2. Middlewich	18.11
3. Grappenhall	17.75
4. Tattenhall	17.64
5. Heaton Mersey	17.13
6. Oulton Park	17.00
7. Warrington	16.88
8. Alderley Edge	16.86
9. Irby	16.67
10= Neston	16.56
10= Sale	16.56
12. Chester Bo. Hall	16.45
13. Urmston	16.44
14. Bowdon	16.27
15. Alvanley	16.22
16. Stockport	16.20
17= Bramhall	16.13
17= Cheadle Hulme	16.13
19. Malpas	16.11
20. Didsbury	16.00
21. Nantwich	15.80
22= Bollington	15.88
22= Macclesfield	15.88
24. Oxton	15.75
25. Upton	15.63
26= Bredbury St. Mk.	15.50
26= Congleton	15.50
26= Timperley	15.50
26= Widnes	15.50
30. Cheadle	15.43
31. Stockport Geo.	15.33
32. Hyde	15.25
33. Brooklands	14.67
34= Marple	14.50
35= Toft	14.50
36. Poynton	14.13

OUTFIELDS

1. Christleton	19.90
2. Neston	19.86
3= Irby	19.44
3= Urmston	19.44
5. Middlewich	19.33
6. Stockport	19.25
7. Tattenhall	19.18
8. Bramhall	19.11
9= Alderley Edge	19.00
9= Chester Bo. Hall	19.00
11. Hyde	18.57
12. Oxton	18.50
13= Grappenhall	18.44
13= Toft	18.44
15. Nantwich	18.43
16= Heaton Mersey	18.40
16= Sale	18.40
18. Didsbury	18.38
19= Bredbury St. Mk.	18.33
19= Timperley	18.33
21. Widnes	18.17
22. Alvanley	18.13
23. Oulton Park	18.10
24. Cheadle	18.00
25. Warrington	17.80
26. Brooklands	17.78
27. Marple	17.75
28. Cheadle Hulme	17.50
29. Malpas	17.44
30= Poynton	17.25
30= Stockport Geo.	17.25
32. Congleton	17.13
33. Macclesfield	16.78
34. Bowdon	16.57
35. Upton	16.33
36. Bollington	14.67

Second XI pitches

SEVEN clubs jointly topped the 2nd XI Pitch table with a maximum mark of five. The table has been devised from captains' reports on the weekly result sheets.

5.00 – Alvanley, Bramhall, Chester, Irby, Macclesfield, Stockport Georgians, Urmston

4.82 – Sale, Tattenhall, Toft

4.80 – Neston

4.78 – Alderley Edge, Hyde, Upton, Warrington

4.75 – Bredbury St. Mark's

4.71 – Christleton

4.60 - Middlewich

4.56 – Didsbury, Grappenhall, Marple,

Oxton, Widnes

4.50 – Bowdon

4.45 – Nantwich, Stockport

4.43 – Malpas, Timperley

4.38 – Oulton Park

4.33 – Heaton Mersey

4.00 – Bollington, Cheadle, Congleton

3.78 - Brooklands

3.25 - Cheadle Hulme

3.13 - Poynton

Cheshire win 60s trophy for record third season

CHESHIRE became the first team to win the **Spitfire 60 Plus county championship** three seasons in succession when they beat Northants by 72 runs in the final at Oakham School .

Cheshire rattled up 160-9 in their 45 overs, top scorers being Ian Brown, 34 and Nick Sharp, 30 before bowling out their opponents for 89, Chris Lees 3-14, Dick Powell 3-26, Bob Yardley 2-13, Howard Morris 2-31. Ray Swann, father of England spinner Graham, was in the Northants team.

The Cheshire team was: Andy Hurworth captain (Irby), Nick Sharp (Grappenhall), Ted Williams (Runcorn), Ian Brown, Bob Worsley, John Edwards (Cheadle Hulme), Dick Powell (Burscough), Howard Morris (Warrington), Chris Lees (Marple), David Cain (Timperley), Bob Yardley (Neston). 12th man : Steve Yates (Oulton Park).

Skipper Hurworth commented: "I have had the good fortune to lead all three teams and we have, truly had remarkable success which may never be repeated in Cheshire cricket. I congratulate all the players who played a part, going right back to the friendlies in May. . This includes Ken Crofton who latterly acted as organiser and I also thank scorers Myra Isterling and Heather Brown and umpire Paul Herring for their services.

The Cheshire squad will get the opportunity to celebrate at a Veterans Dinner at Grappenhall on Friday, November 2.

RedInsure Trophy in 2013

FINALS DAY in the League's RedInsure T20 Trophy in 2013 is likely be on Sunday, July 28, provisionally at Timperley.

The ECB have decreed that July 28 is the latest day on which leagues can stage their finals, if they wish the winners to enter the National t20 Area finals scheduled for Sunday, August 11. The Regional final is on Sunday, August 25 with Finals Day on a first class ground on a date yet to be agreed with Sky television, who will broadcast it live.

The League's RedInsure Trophy competition is likely to be revamped in 2013, possibly with the exclusion of the Plate Alternative plans will be considered at the October Cricket Committee meeting.

KINGSFISHER BEERS CUP

Dates for the 2013 Kingfisher Beers Cup (formerly National Club knock-out) in 2013 have been fixed, as follows:

First round Sunday, April 28 (fall back date May 4); Second round: May 12 (May 19); Third round June 2 (June 9); round four (Group final) June 23 (June 30); fifth round July 14 (July 21); Quarter-finals August 4 (August 11 or 18 depending on t20 matches); Semi-finals September 1 (September 8); The final is on September 15 or 22, provisionally at Derby.

Cheshire AGM date

THE annual meeting of Cheshire County Cricket Club is to be held at the Golden Pheasant Hotel, Plumley on Monday, November 19th at 7.30 p.m. The agenda and minutes were included in last summer's County Yearbook.

Cheshire's **Minor Counties championship** fixtures in 2013 will be against Wiltshire, Devon and Shropshire at home and Oxfordshire, Dorset and Berkshire away. Dates have been provisionally fixed but no grounds yet agreed.

In the **Minor Counties Knock out Trophy**, Cheshire will host Cambridgeshire on Sunday, May 5 and Northumberland on Sunday June 2; and travel to Herefordshire on Sunday, April 21 and holders Cumberland on Sunday, May 19. No grounds have yet been arranged.

O **BIRKENHEAD PARK** won the Liverpool Competition Division Two title under the captaincy of Chris Stenhouse and will be promoted to Division One in 2013 alongside neighbours Parkfield Liscard. They will not be teaming up against nearby Wallasey, who have been promoted to the premier division.

O **ELWORTH** won the North Staffs & South Cheshire League First Division title and are promoted to the premier division in 2013.

O **ALL-ROUNDER** Farhaan Berhardien, Heaton Mersey's overseas player when they finished runners-up in the League Second Division in 2004, figured in the South Africa team in the recent World T20 Cup in Sri Lanka. Berhardien had impressive figures with 'Mersey, scoring 828 runs and taking 42 wickets.

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 **TIMPERLEY** are advertising their annual Sportsman's Dinner well in advance. It is to be held at the club on Friday, February 8, 2013 when the guest speaker will be England Selector Geoff Miller, who has agreed to a Q&A session. Tickets are £30 or £280 for a table of 10. Applications to chairman Adam Horan on adamhoran1@hotmail.com

Third XI discipline 'must be improved'

BEHAVIOUR in Third XI Sunday cricket must be drastically improved, chairman David Humpage warned at a special meeting of Third XI club representatives at Warrington on Thursday, October 11.

Mr. Humpage said he had been appalled by poor sportsmanship and indiscipline, culminating in two teams walking off the field in one bad-tempered game, which he had never before known.

He appealed to captains and senior players to do more to stamp out 'this blot on the league' and help impressionable youngsters they played alongside

He said: "Abuse of opposition players will not be tolerated and while the Discipline committee had to meet far too often in 2012, they will do so again if it helps stamp out this ill-feeling. "Severe punishments will be meted out to those who overstep the mark", he warned.

The chairman stressed that if it was agreed before the start that a club umpire should stand at both ends, this arrangement should remain for the rest of the game.

Mr. Humpage also reminded clubs that young players who had not attained Year 8 at school were not permitted to play in adult cricket. This rule would be strictly enforced.

Eligibility rules may be eased

To help clubs with availability it was agreed to consider allowing players up to age 21 who had played in their club 2nd XI on a Saturday to be selected for Sundays, together with anyone who had appeared in a Cheshire League or Cheshire Alliance 2nd XI game on a Saturday.

The possibility is also being considered of Overseas students with up to six months UK residential qualification being permitted to play in the league, although up to what level has not yet been considered. This would allow, for instance, Asian students at university or college, who had not come to the UK specifically to play cricket, to become eligible.

Suggestions that the Sunday First and Second Divisions should be regionalised to cut down on travel to aid young players who had played in the morning was not approved, nor was another proposal that the Third and Fourth Divisions should be reduced to 80 overs each for the same purpose

Urmston chairman Rob Arnold said: "Clubs should consult their young players on these matters and be prepared to reflect their views when considering these changes for 2014".

Results secretary Brian Boys regretted that the quality of Saturday 3rd XI cricket had dropped to its lowest level in his memory. A total of 27 games had been abandoned or cancelled, there had been two defaults and three ineligible players had been uncovered in Division One. A total of 41 games had been lost in Division Two, with eight defaults. Many team sheets indicated 10 players or less. He pleaded for an all-round improvement in 2013 when the section would be administered by Ian Sharrock. Mr Boys is taking over the responsibility of running 2nd XI cricket.

The two Saturday divisions were likely to continue with 12 and eight teams respectively, with Didsbury 4 possibly replacing Timperley 4 in Division Two.

Peter Lawson had experienced similar problems running Third XI Third and Fourth Divisions, especially with late or missing result sheets, which often appeared on the website before he received them. A record number of games had been called off due to rain and too many defaulted. He was unsure of the divisional make up in 2013 as there could be further resignations to follow that of Mobberley, while others teams might wish enter if eligibility was eased.

Ian Sharrock would be taking over the Third XI Jack Gardner Trophy – which would remain a T20 competition - as well as continuing to run the Sunday First and Second Divisions.

Caldy, Offerton join Over 40s

THE League's **Over 40s section** will have a record membership of 31 clubs in 2013 following the admission of Caldly and Offerton at a special meeting at Warrington on Thursday, October 11.

Caldy, members of the Liverpool Competition, will play in the West zone while Offerton (Cheshire Alliance), enter the South-East zone.

The season will open on Wednesday, May 8 and end on Wednesday, August 7. With Warrington opting to switch from the West to the North-East zone, the composition of the regional groups will be as follows:

WEST (seven clubs: 12 games): Caldly, Chester Boughton Hall, Irby, Neston, Oxton, Tattenhall Wreckers, Upton.

CENTRAL (eight clubs: 14 games): Alsager Dabbers, Ashley, Bowdon, Bowdon Vale Vikings, Davenham, Grappenhall, Mobberley, Toft

NORTH-EAST (eight clubs: 14 games): Alderley Edge Wizards, Brooklands, Cheadle, Cheadle Hulme, Cheadle Hulme Ladybridge, Urmston, Sale, Warrington.

SOUTH-EAST (eight clubs: 14 games): Bollington Veterans, Bredbury Saints, Bramhall, Macclesfield, Marple, Poynton Legends, Offerton, Woodley

Objections were raised to Alsager Dabbers playing home games on Thursdays, as it was felt all fixtures should be on Wednesdays. Alsager would be asked to consider switching to Wednesdays next season or in 2014. .

It was agreed to retain the Play-off finals day on August Bank Holiday (August 26 in 2013, venue to be resolved).

Clubs were asked to avoid calling matches off after 5 p.m., as visiting teams were usually en route by that time.

Several proposals for changes to rule were rejected. These included: doing away with the toss and allowing the away team to bat first; the introduction of 30 yard fielding circles to reduce defensive cricket; the use of white balls; clubs finishing level on points at the top or in second place in their group to automatically play-off.. It was also agreed that games called off due to bad weather could continue to be re-arranged within 14 days by mutual agreement.

Representing the section sponsors TailorMade Group Pensions, Peter Barrett addressed the meeting and said his company's support would continue in 2013.

PLEASE DISPLAY THIS NEWSLETTER

Clubs are urged to display this *Newsletter* on their notice boards to inform as many members as possible of league events, plans, records, requests, etc.

The next issue will be in mid-November.

Meantime, clubs are invited to offer articles or news items to be considered for publication

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Anyone who wishes to submit an advertisement or a picture for publication in the 2013 handbook should contact the undersigned.

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The next meeting of the League Management Committee is at Grappenhall on Wednesday, November 21 (8 p.m.).

Proposals for changes to rule should be tabled at this meeting prior to a final vote at the Management meeting m at Bowdon on Wednesday, January 23, 2013. This will be combined with the Annual General Meeting.

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The pre-2013 season meeting at which cricket balls, handbooks, result sheets and other information is distributed is at Warrington on Wednesday, April 10, 2013, followed by a Captains' Meeting.

Mike.t-b@virgin.net: **October 15, 2012.**

