

MARCH, 2013 NEWSLETTER

Clubs to get 12 free balls - if all debts paid

GOOD news for clubs as the 2013 season approaches is the League's decision to gift all 36 full members with 12 free cricket balls, marked with the logo of new sponsors Vivio.

At the AGM in January, a possible 'rebate' to clubs was discussed following another satisfactory financial year, while concern was expressed at the level of moneys owed by some clubs.

As a result, the Cricket Committee have agreed to give each full member club 12 free balls as part of their 2013 supply. This will be worth almost £200 per club and represents a total League outlay in the region of £7,000.

However, in the light of moneys owed, the package will only be available to clubs who settle all their 2012 debts. Treasurer Andy Woods has circulated two lists identifying subscriptions and fines currently outstanding.

Secretary Geoff Wellsted has circulated these lists asking clubs involved to settle as soon as possible.

A total of 15 clubs have subscriptions overdue, including one associate member who owe more than £400.

Fines are due from 21 clubs, the highest single amount being a full member with £240 outstanding.

EXIT TRANMERE VICS

ASSOCIATE members for the past two seasons, Tranmere Victoria have resigned with immediate effect from Sunday Division Four West.

The divisional fixture-list has been revamped to cater for eight teams playing 14 games, with no open dates, although there will now be a three-week hiatus in mid-season.

The Birkenhead club gave no explanation for their late decision.

Treasurer to stand down

RE-ELECTED at the AGM, Andy Woods plans to stand down as League Treasurer due to pressure of work and domestic commitments.

A potential successor has come forward and will be introduced to clubs at the pre-season management meeting at Warrington on Wednesday, April 10 when his formal election will be proposed.

He is well-known Cheadle Hulme cricketer and former 1st XI captain Matthew Cheetham, a qualified chartered accountant, being a partner in a corporate finance company. Matthew has played in various Cheadle Hulme teams for the past 20 years and has also represented the league. He has run the Under 13 and Under 15 teams at Grove Park, his son leg-spinner Will taking four wickets on his 2nd XI debut in 2012.

Georgians opt out of T20

STOCKPORT Georgians have opted out of the revamped RedInsure T20 leaving 35 clubs to compete in the nine regional groups.

Group stage fixtures may only be re-arranged with the consent of both clubs and must be played earlier the same week. Final date for applications to change must be made to the Competition Secretary by April 30. All games start at 6 p.m. A full list of new and renewed rules will appear in the handbook.

MINI GROUP FIXTURES

Group 1: Nantwich, Oulton Park, Middlewich, Congleton.

Thursday, May 23: Nantwich v Congleton; Middlewich v Oulton Park. Thursday, June 6: Congleton v Middlewich; Oulton Park v Nantwich. Thursday, June 20: Nantwich v Middlewich; Congleton v Oulton Park.

Group 2: Hyde, Bredbury St. Mark's Cheadle (three clubs only).

Tuesday, May 16 (*agreed new date*): Bredbury v Cheadle. Hyde open.

Thursday, May 30: Hyde v Bredbury; Cheadle open. Thursday, June 13: Cheadle v Hyde. Bredbury open.

Group 3: Chester Boughton Hall, Grappenhall, Warrington, Davenham.

Thursday, May 23: Davenham v Chester; Warrington v Grappenhall. Thursday, June 6: Chester v Warrington; Grappenhall v Davenham. Thursday, June 20: Davenham v Warrington; Grappenhall v Chester.

Group 4: Macclesfield, Toft, Bramhall, Bollington.

Thursday, May 16: Macclesfield v Bramhall; Bollington v Toft. Thursday, May 30: Toft v Macclesfield (*subject to change*); Bramhall v Bollington. Thursday, June 13: Macclesfield v Bollington; Bramhall v Toft.

Group 5: Marple, Bowdon, Heaton Mersey, Timperley.

Thursday, May 23: Bowdon v Timperley; Heaton Mersey v Marple. Thursday, June 6: Timperley v Heaton Mersey; Marple v Bowdon. Thursday, June 20: Heaton Mersey v Bowdon; Marple v Timperley.

Group 6: Oxton, Widnes, Irby, Alvanley.

Thursday, May 16: Widnes v Irby; Alvanley v Oxton. Thursday, May 30: Oxton v Widnes; Irby v Alvanley. Thursday, June 13: Oxton v Irby; Alvanley v Widnes.

Group 7: Alderley Edge, Sale, Brooklands, Poynton.

Thursday, May 23: Poynton v Alderley Edge; Sale v Brooklands. Thursday, June 6: Alderley Edge v Sale; Brooklands v Poynton. Thursday, June 20: Alderley Edge v Brooklands; Sale v Poynton.

Group 8: Didsbury, Urmston, Cheadle Hulme, Stockport.

Thursday, May 16: Urmston v Cheadle Hulme; Didsbury v Stockport. Thursday, May 30: Cheadle Hulme v Didsbury; Stockport v Urmston. Thursday, June 13: Urmston v Didsbury; Cheadle Hulme v Stockport.

Group 9: Neston, Christleton, Tattenhall, Weaverham.

Thursday, May 23: Neston v Christleton; Weaverham v Tattenhall. Thursday, June 6: Christleton v Weaverham; Tattenhall v Neston. Thursday, June 20: Tattenhall v Christleton; Neston v Weaverham.

Play-off match: Thursday, June 27: Group 8 winners v Group 9 winners.

Quarter-finals: Thursday July 11: Group 7 winners v Group 4 winners; Group 3 winners v Group 6 winners; Play-off winners v Group 7 winners; Group 5 winners v Group 1 winners.

A new draw will be made after the quarter-finals

Finals Day Sunday, July 28 at Timperley. Semi-finals (12 noon) followed by Final (3.30 p.m.).

ECB t20 Area Finals Day

The winners at Timperley will go forward to represent the League by hosting the ECB National Club t20 Area Finals on Sunday, August 11 also involving the T20 champions of the Birmingham, North Wales and North Staffs & South Cheshire Premier Leagues.

The winners from that event go forward to the regional finals on Sunday, August 25, followed by an all-expenses-paid National Finals Day on a first class county ground in early September.

Cheshire Development XI fixtures

CHESHIRE Development XI manager Matthew Sharp has arranged eight fixtures for the 2013 season, including two over two days and six over one-day, as follows:

Thursday, June 6	Lancashire 2nd	at Sale
Wednesday – Thursday, June 26 – 27	Durham Academy	at Warrington
Wednesday – Thursday, July 24 – 35	Lancashire Under 19	away
Monday, July 29	Warwickshire Under 19	away
Friday, August 2	Worcestershire Under 19	at Bramhall
Thursday, August 15	Staffs Development XI	at Macclesfield
Thursday, August 22	Staffs Development XI	away
Tuesday, August 27	Shropshire Development XI	away

Cheshire 4cs AGM

THE AGM of the Cheshire Clubs Cricket committee is at Hale Barns on Monday, March 25, 8 p.m. All senior officers have been nominated for re-election.

Secretary John Petch plans to circulate a Newsletter during the 2013 season. The 4Cs new website address is www.the-4c-s-org

Lancashire 2nd at Neston, Middlewich

LANCASHIRE 2nd XI have arranged another double-header T20 Cup fixture at Neston in 2013 on Tuesday, June 18 against Durham. The separate games will start at 11 a.m. and 3.30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 23 sees Lancashire stage a 2nd XI Trophy game against Worcestershire 2nd at Middlewich, 11 a.m.

A three-day friendly against Scotland A starting on Tuesday, August 27 has yet to be arranged and may be allotted to a Cheshire ground.

12 leagues in President's Trophy

THERE has been an entry of 12 leagues for the League Cricket Conference President's Trophy in 2013. Winners in 2010-11-12 North Staffs. & South-Cheshire will host Worcestershire County or Staffs. Club Championship after a first round bye.

Also entered are Derbyshire & Cheshire; Bristol & District; Northumberland & Tyneside; Bassetlaw; Durham County; Yorks and Derbyshire; Shropshire County; Notts Premier and North Yorks and South Durham.

The Cheshire County League withdrew in 2009 after entering continuously since 1975.

O Staffs-based Chairman Bob Cherry is to step down at the Conference AGM at Middleton later in March after 37 years at the helm.

Village knock out

DRAW for the first round of the Yorkshire Tea-sponsored Village championship Group 8 includes the following ties to be played on Sunday, May 5:

Alvanley bye; Christleton v Broadbottom; Tattenhall v Caldby; Ashley v Northop Hall.

Round 2 is on May 19, round 3 on June 2 and the regional final on June 16.

Umpire Davies busy

LEAGUE panel umpire Alistair Davies has received some interesting appointments for the forthcoming Minor Counties season, as follows:

May 28 knock out Shropshire v Wiltshire at Oswestry; June 2 knock-out Cumberland v Herefordshire at Penrith; June 9 – 11 championship Staffs. v Cumberland at Hem Heath; June 23 – 25 championship Cheshire v Wiltshire at Chester; August 4 – 6 championship Shropshire v Berkshire at Whitchurch;

Alistair has agreed to restart his popular Umpires Quiz in the *Newsletter* starting in late April.

NEW FIXTURE BUREAU

A FREE National Fixture Bureau to help clubs organise Sunday and mid-week friendlies has been set up by UK Shire Sports MD Ed Middleton..

He will help clubs arrange games at a local, regional or national basis and can be contacted free of charge by telephone on 01270 620 103 or by e-mail on efixtures@shiresports.co.uk

'Wirral Mafia' spotted at Dunedin

THE League's unofficial representatives at the New Zealand v England Test series Down Under were spotted on Sky television beamed from Dunedin last week.

League secretary Geoff Wellsted and his umpiring colleagues Ged Kinsey and Barrie Burns were picked up by cameras in the stands at the delightful Otago ground watching the First Test, which ended in a high-scoring draw.

The 'Wirral Mafia' as they have become known, are travelling together for a month and plan to go on to watch the Wellington and Auckland Tests.

O Geoff Wellsted mails from Dunedin on Tuesday: "We're having a great time; met Test match scorer at Dunedin and sat in Aggers' BBC commentary box. Off to Wellington on Wednesday, Regards to all".

O Geoff is compiling a diary for publication in **Newsletter** on his return

Cheshire Umpires & Scorers' Newsletter

THE latest issue of the Cheshire Umpires & Scorers Association Newsletter has been produced by Neville Kent.

It reminds members that a two day scorers course for ECB ACO members is to be held at Toft on Sunday, March 17 and Saturday, April 6.

Although the course is fully booked, it is still available as a refresher for candidates who failed to gain accreditation at the previous course.

Contact Paul Herring on 0161 337 8151 or herring221@btinternet.com

CAG NEWS

THE February Newsletter of the Cheshire Association of Groundsmen reports that a Foundation A course is to be held at Warrington on Wednesday, April 3 and a Foundation B course at Heaton Mersey on Tuesday, August 20.

To book contact Brian Jarrard 07788 516 251; brian.jarrard48@gmail.com or Nick James on 07808 723 110; Nicholas.james5@ntlworld.com

There is to be an organised trip to Old Trafford in early April, including a buffet lunch. .

Alliance change secretary

NEW secretary of the Cheshire Cricket Alliance is Phil Smith, of Great Sutton, South Wirral. He succeeds Alan Rogers who retired at the AGM.

Speaker Greenidge

NANTWICH chairman Rob Sproston, a leading sports agent, reveals that former West Indies Test star Gordon Greenidge is available as a Sporting Dinner speaker this summer.

Greenidge, who played 108 Tests and scored 7,558 runs including 19 centuries, is in the UK from April to early October and comes highly recommended. His speaking tour to Australia next autumn is already fully booked.

Interested? Contact Rob on 01270 624 638; 07968 037 301; or by e-mail on rss.me.uk.

Latest Club News

BOLLINGTON SWITCH

HOPES of registering highly-rated Australian Blaize Fitzgerald have been scrapped by demoted Bollington. They have switched their attention to another Aussie,

ELECTRONIC SCOREBOARD @ BOWDON

Bowdon have heralded promotion to the ECB Premiership – and their return to the Minor Counties home match register - by installing an electronic scoreboard, sited in the same position on the far side of the ground at South Down Road.

BREDBURY CENTENARY

PLANS are well under way for Centenary Season celebrations at Bredbury St. Mark's. Chairman Dave Downes and his committee have drawn up plans for an ambitious gala at Pennine Road on May Bank Holiday Monday.

CHEADLE HULME CAPTURE

FORMER Poynton club captain and League sponsor Steve Mobley is to captain Cheadle Hulme's Over 40s team this summer.

PRE-SEASON TRIP FOR DIDSBURY

DIDSBURY are to visit National Club title holders York for pre-season fixtures, playing T20 and 50 overs games on April 12 and 13.

Overseas player lined up is Dinidu Jayathilake, who has played nine first-class games in Sri Lanka, the last in 2011. He is a former Cambridgeshire Minor Counties player, as is new wicket-keeper Robert Powell. One of the best players in Division Two in the past few seasons, all-rounder Simon Normanton has joined from Stockport Georgians.

New club coach is Amal Dalugoda, a former Sri Lanka A team player..

Former wicket-keeper Paul Brierley has been appointed the ECB's CRM manager based at Lord's.

Much hard work has been carried out to improve the ground during the winter.

GRAPPENHALL BLOW

GRAPPENHALL have had to cancel the registration of Cameron Valente as their overseas player. Cameron has been called up for the Aussie Under 19s team to tour New Zealand in the summer.

Long-time Warrington batsman Mal Agar has left Walton Lea to try his hand in Premier League cricket at Broad Lane.

A large sum of money has been spent to connect the scoreboard with electricity now the club are bound by Premiership lap top scoring obligations and to allow use of the bowling machine in the nearby nets.

Faulty drains at the front of the square have been replaced

MACCLESFIELD VET CARRIES ON

AN indispensable figure at Macclesfield is long-serving secretary Brian Hillaby, who wanted to stand down at the end of last season. Brian has now been persuaded to carry on in an 'acting' capacity in 2013.

After considering playing elsewhere in 2013, former skipper Barney Cutbill has decided to remain at Victoria road and will play a limited number of games in whichever team he is selected.

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MARPLE'S 'EX' IN ACTION

MARPLE'S outstanding overseas player in 2010-11 Dominic Michael recently made his first class debut for Queensland against Victoria at Melbourne, scoring a duck and 41.

Michael, whose mother is Western Samoan and father a Greek Cypriot, is having an outstanding season for North Suburbs in Queensland grade cricket, scoring 986 runs including four centuries.

Marple stage an Under 11 and Under 13 Girls Festival on Sunday, April 14 from 10.30am. to 4.30 pm. For information contact Hannah Tomlinson at Hannah.j.tomlinson@hotmail.co.uk / 09773 124 189

NANTWICH SKIPPER STANDS DOWN

ANDY NEWTON has stepped down after three successive ECB Premier League championship triumphs. He plans to carry in playing but is restricting the amount of cricket he plays due to business commitments.

Ray Doyle takes over the 1st XI leadership and expects to blood a number of promising younger players. Wicket-keeper Bob Cook-Sievwright returns after two seasons at Middlewich; another arrival is Congleton's Jack Goode, who is at Northants Academy and Lancashire Academy batsman Liam Livingstone who succeeds Louiis Bentley, back at Oulton Park.

Ollie Law has been playing grade cricket in Melbourne during the winter and his dad Jim recently dropped in to watch him. Jim was paying a return visit to stay with Arthur Pritchard, father of former CBH all-rounder Heath. Arthur visited England with the Australia Over 60s team in 2011 and 2012.

NESTON'S FINEGAN IN ARGENTINA

NESTON seam bowler Chris Finegan was rewarded for many years' fine work for his club and Cheshire with selection for an MCC squad which toured Argentina in early-March.

Former producer of the BBC's *Test Match Special* radio programme, Peter Baxter was an admired guest speaker at a well-attended function at Parkgate on Friday, March 8.

BUSY DAYS AT OXTON

AN interesting bulletin produced by chairman Mark Cashin, reveals that his son, club captain Graham Cashin, expects to miss half the 2013 season after undergoing major knee surgery. Graham is temporarily replaced by vice captain Simon Stokes.

Other players unavailable will be Ross Dixon, Tom Marsland and Chris Davies who have all moved on.

Wicket-keeper Mark Debrabender returns and key acquisitions are highly-rated Irby teenage batsman Alex Hughes and all-rounder Martin Evans, from New Brighton.

Extensive work has been completed to improve the interior and exterior area of the pavilion. A large turn out of members is expected at NatWest Cricket Force Day on Saturday, March 23.

A two year shirt sponsorship deal has been reached with Cory Brothers which will see players purchasing cut price shirts which will be worn at all levels

The famous Lashings World XI are to play at Oxtton on Friday, June 21 sponsored to the tune of £2,000 by UBM United Business Media

POYNTON NEWSLETTER

POYNTON'S Martin (Dazzler) Saxon has produced an interesting pre-season *Newsletter* giving all his club's fixtures for the season and explaining the changes to the points system

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KIWI FOR TATTENHALL

FORMER Otago Under 19s batsman Dan Powell is joining Tattenhall as their overseas player, linking up with another Kiwi, Tom Hyslop. Dan has fielded as a sub for the Black Caps in international cricket.

Big things are expected of new signings Olly Thompson, Owen Williamson and Glen Coppack.

WEAVERHAM OVERSEAS

WEAVERHAM have registered West Indian all-rounder Wilden Cornwall. Chester's David Atkin made contact with Wilden on a trip to the Caribbean and advertised the player's availability in a winter issue of *Newsletter*. Weaverham followed up the e-mail address offered and did the rest.

Thanks to advertisers ...

THANKS are expressed to the following who will be taking advertisements in the 2013 League handbook:

Andy Newton (AB Nutrition)

BDO (Brent Wilkinson);

Bola (Steve Windaybank)

Brian Gresty (Whitchurch Sports)

Canterbury Sports

Cheshire County Cricket Club

Dave Ward

Frank Marshall and Co.

Gerry Hardstaff (Cricket Bats)

Guardian Group Newspapers

Ken Simpson (Overseas Property & Black 5 Books)

Lancashire County Cricket Club

Meadons Cricket Club Insurance

Monkhouse Inter-Sport (Peak Sports)

RPG (Steve Murrills)

Tricia and Simon Burley

Bola and Monkhouse Sports have also taken advertising space on the League Website.

Free advertisement space was afforded to sponsors Vivio (two pages), Red Insure, Delmar Press, Readers and TailorMade Group Pensions; also to Allan Sherratt; Cheshire Association of Groundsmen and Cheshire Cricket Trust.

The League invite Handbook and Newsletter readers to support the various services provided by the advertisers.

All clubs are urged to use the full new title of the league in their correspondence, letter heads and press releases.

All newspapers in receipt of League information are respectfully requested to do likewise.

PRE-SEASON MEETING: APRIL 10

CLUBS are reminded that they must attend the pre-season League Management meeting at Warrington on Wednesday, April 10 (8 p.m.) when cricket balls, handbooks, result sheets and other items will be available for collection. It will incorporate a Captains' Meeting.

Associate members who do not attend will be charged postage to despatch their goods. .

NEXT ISSUE ... PRE-SEASON EARLY APRIL
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Last word: farewell to a Cricket Character ...

ONE of the most colourful characters to appear in the Cheshire County League in the past few years has announced his retirement from the game.

He is former New Zealand Test batsman Lou Vincent, who helped Nantwich win the Premier League title in 2010 and played for Oxton in 2012.

Announcing his decision in the *Auckland Times*, Lou, 34, revealed some interesting career stats::

“I am upping stumps after 16 years, 1,134 games, 23 Tests. 718.5 hotels, 834 planes, 57 teams, three punch-ups and one proud career. I thank you all. Over and out”.

Admitting episodes of severe depression in later life, Lou has been a supporter of Mental Health organisations and has a dedicated website entitled *Where is Lou*.

He plans to settle down in his native country.

mike.t-b@virgin.net March 12, 2013