



Chester stretch lead to 9 points on season's wettest day

ON a day when the top and bottom two clubs clashed in the **ECB Premier League**, the intervention of the first meaningful rain of the season affected both fixtures, the outcome being that Chester Boughton Hall have stretched their lead over Neston to nine points.

Four games remain including the crucial fixture between the rivals at Parkgate on August 31.

Put in to bat at Filkins Lane, Chester rattled up a remarkable 309-1 before declaring on 43 overs, the highlight being an opening stand of 199 between Warren Goodwin and Mark Rowland. Goodwin's not out 164 was the highest Premiership tally of the season, his innings including 17 fours and five sixes. Goodwin now has 989 runs and seems certain to achieve four figures once again. Rowland contributed a stirring 82, then Jordan Clark weighed in with 46 not out. Left with 67 overs to reply, Macclesfield lost five overs to rain, but still did well to reach 262-9, Rob Porter 69, Jack Ward 48, Nick Ross 37 and James Cross a vital late unbeaten 26. All-rounders Goodwin and Rowland also did well with the ball, taking 3-19 and 2-37 respectively.

Chester took 15 points and Macclesfield five.

Neston, meanwhile, put Didsbury in to bat at Parkgate and their lowly visitors (record: three wins and 13 defeats) surprised them by totalling 259-9 from 54 overs, the consistent Nick Anderson scoring 93, Simon Normanton 45, James Hawley 38, while Andy Clarke claimed 4-66 and Paul Stimson 4-68.

The Neston reply was ruined by rain stoppages and they eventually had only 26 overs at the crease, reaching 147-9 in a dash for points, Jack Smith 36, David Hurst 30, Simon Normanton 5-44, Jonny Fawcett 4-39.

Neston pocketed seven points to Didsbury's 14, still not enough to shift them off a technical bottom place,

Oxton outplay Marple

Because of the rain which fell throughout the region, there were no definite results in any Premier League games, a revived Oxton coming nearest with a 13 – 3 draw at home to Marple, whose form has dipped badly. Oxton declared on 229-4, Martyn Evans 71, Alex Money 66 after which Marple struggled to 70-7, Beau Webster 24 and Andy Hall, a steady 22 not out, while Gayan Fernando claimed 5-33 off 12 lively overs.

Hyde rattled up 303-5 at home to Nantwich, Dave Fitzsimmons 97 not out, James Duffy 65, Scott Kirwin 48. The Dabbers had batted for only four balls when the rain descended on Werneth Low – as it can.

Grappenhall were on 221-8 half way through the 52nd over at home to Toft when wetness arrived from the Mersey Funnel. . Adam Roylance had scored 77 and Richard Green 56 not out, while Jack Dickenson was on 3-45.

Bowdon's former Lancashire batsman Mark Chilton compiled a cultured 91 in his side's abandoned game at Alderley Edge which yielded the visitors 10 useful points. Mark Leathley supported him with 43, while Jason Whittaker took 3-71 in the visitors' tally of 224-6. Alderley Edge were 10-1 when a premature close was applied..

Calvin Flowers gives July Performance of Month

WINNER of the League's **Performance of the Month** award for July is Sale's South African all-rounder Calvin Flowers.

In a thrilling tied match with First Division leaders Bramhall on July 20 (both sides scored 301) Calvin contributed 186 not out, then took 5-81 and ran out the last Bramhall batsman off game's final delivery – all on his 29th birthday.

The Cricket Committee considered this outpointed Heaton Mersey's Aussie Aaron Ayre scoring a divisional record 205 not out against Cheadle Hulme and 211 not out for Urmston 3rd scored by 16 year-old Matt Downes in a Sunday Division One game. against Sale 3rd. The winner will receive an award donated by Canterbury of New Zealand.

Cheadle Hulme on a roll

CHEADLE HULME kept up their remarkable promotion bid in **Division One** when they beat Brooklands by 10 wickets at Grove Park. Their last 10 games have brought 'Hulme nine wins and a draw – 233 points

Only five points behind second-placed Urmston, Cheadle Hulme's lethal fast bowling partnership of Kris Nissen and Rana Malook claimed 5-33 and 5-36 respectively to scuttle Brooklands for 84, John Birchall 32. Then skipper Adam Wilde led the way in a closing tally of 88-2 with an unbeaten 50, his ninth half century of the season.

Leaders Bramhall were held to a draw – and nearly lost – at Oulton Park after they had posted 170-9, Nick Cantello 75 not out, Matt Jamieson 60, Ric Moore 3-19. Oulton managed only 32 overs in reply due to rain, reaching a creditable 168-8, Moore 50, Simon Wilkinson 3-68.

Urmston kept up their winning form to stay second after a comfortable five wickets win at Middlewich whom they despatched for 118, skipper Sumit Panda doing well to claim 6-34 on the near-perfect Haddon Field wicket. Urmston responded with 122-5.

Ayre reaches 1,000 runs

Heaton Mersey's outstanding Aussie Aaron Ayre became the first League batsman to top 1,000 runs, but that didn't prevent his side losing and remaining in deep trouble after a home defeat by Cheadle. Ayre contributed 71 to Mersey's 153-9, taking his personal tally to 1,008, while fellow countryman Simon O'Brian took 5-68. Cheadle replied with 154-8, Joe Prince 46, Greg Dixon 41. Mersey's Nasser Hussain had figures of 6-61 off 11 eventful overs.

Christleton were the only other winners, beating Widnes by six wickets at Little Heath. Skipper Ian Spencer promoted himself to open the Widnes innings and did well with a top-scoring 61, aided by Danny Naughton, 42 in a modest tally of 177, Iroshan de Silva 5-59. Ben Patterson, 80 and Guy Newell, 45, both not out, steered their side to a creditable 179-4 in reply..

Sale amassed 331-8, the highest First Division tally of the season, at Bredbury St. Mark's. Tyrone Lawrence led the onslaught with 130 and Calvin Flowers 81, Paul Wood 4-53. Lawrence has a taste for Bredbury bowling having scored 135 against them at Dane road earlier in the season. Bredbury had reached 14-0 when rain ended play.

On Sunday, Cheadle completed a memorable 50-points week-end, winning a high-scoring re-arranged match by two wickets at Oulton Park. The hosts rattled up 267-9 with 100 from Louis Bentley and 56 to Andy Mills before Cheadle replied with 268-8, Joe Prince cracking 104 off 56 balls and Andy Wilson 74, while Martyn East took 6-93.

TIMPERLEY REACH 400 POINTS

TIMPERLEY reached the 400 points mark in **Division Two** when they chalked up victory number 15 against wooden spoonists Bollington at Stockport road. Victory at Davenham next Saturday should at least clinch them promotion.

Bollington were dismissed for 113 and Timperley eased home at 117-2 inside 20 overs.

Stockport stay in the runners-up spot although they came off second best on their rain-shortened trip to Irby, who posted 217-6, Danny Gulliver 55, Andy. Williams 50, Dave Newman 40, Mike Eley 3-48. Stockport's response was reduced to 40 overs and they mustered 159-8, Josh Manning 75, Williams completing a good day with 4-21.

Warrington moved into third spot with a three wickets home win over Weaverham, courtesy of more fine fast bowling by Aussie Kyle Adams, whose 6-75 restricted the visitors to 149-6 before tea. Richard Heaney top scored with 50 and Chris Kirby 42 in a winning response of 150-7, Wilden Cornwall 4-54.

Davenham upsurge

Davenham continued their upsurge with a 46 runs victory at Stockport Georgians after posting only 128, Ben Gallagher 39, John Leggett 5-46, Jeremy Devlin 3-41. Georgians were all out for 82 after tea, Dean Jackson 4-34, Johan Loubser 3-28.

Congleton completed the double over Tattenhall by 46 runs at Booth Street, thanks largely to outstanding Kiwi Jerrym Lamb. Jerrym top-scored with 86 in Congleton's 201-8, helped by 48 not out from Kevin Waterhouse with Graham Forster taking 4-46. Tatters were all out for 177, that man Lamb completing the kind of day to make Congleton scorer Mike Kitton purr, with 5-27.

Alvanley pocketed only six points from a rain ruined draw at home to Poynton and are still not out of the relegation maze. Paul Gould top-scored with 96 and Damien Stringer 57 as Poynton posted an impressive 217-5. Rain shortened Alvanley's reply which reached 156-7 from 37 overs, Mark Szymura 35, Ed Speakman 32 not out, Andy Bennion 32, Stringer 3-40.

ECB PREMIER LEAGUE RESULTS

ALDERLEY EDGE (won toss, 7 pts.) v BOWDON (10 pts): abandoned as draw

Bowdon 224-6 (55 overs: M Chilton 91, M. Leathley 43, S. Ball 31, J Whittaker 3-71);
Alderley Edge 10-1 (8 overs).

CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL (15 pts.) drew with MACCLESFIELD (toss, 5 pts.)

Chester 309-1 dec. (43 overs: W Goodwin 164no, M. Rowland 82, J Clark 46no);
Macclesfield 262-9 (62 overs: R Porter 69, J Ward 48, N Ross 37, W Goodwin 3-19). Five overs lost to rain.

GRAPPENHALL (10 pts) v TOFT (7 pts.) abandoned as draw:

Grappenhall 221-8 (51.3 overs: Roylance 77, R. Green 56no, J. Dickenson 3-45);
Toft did not bat.
Match originally reduced to 102 overs.

HYDE (toss, 10 pts) v NANTWICH (7 pts.): abandoned as draw:

Hyde 303-5 (55 overs: D Fitzsimmons 97no, J Duffy 65, S. Kirwin 48, D. Berry 37);
Nantwich 0-0 (0.4 overs).

NESTON (toss, 7 pts.) drew with DIDSBURY (14 pts.)

Didsbury 259-9 (54 overs: N Anderson 93, S. Normanton 45, J Hawley 38, A Clarke 4-66, P Stimson 4-68);
Neston 147-9 (26 overs: J. Smith 36, D. Hurst 30, S Normanton 5-44, J Fawcett 4-39).
Game originally reduced to 108 overs.

OXTON (toss, 13 pts.) drew with MARPLE (3 pts.)

Oxton 229-4 dec. (40 overs: M Evans 71, A. Money 66, A Hughes 36);
Marple 70-7 (25 overs: G. Fernando 5-33)
Match originally reduced to 90 overs.

DIVISION ONE

BREDBURY ST. MARK'S (won toss, 7 pts.) v SALE (10 pts) abandoned as draw:

Sale 331-8 (50 overs: T Lawrence 130, C Flowers 81, P Wood 4-53, P Zybrands 3-53)
Bredbury 14-0 (3 overs).

CHEADLE HULME (toss, 25 pts.) beat BROOKLANDS (0 pts.) by 8 wickets:

Brooklands 84 (34 overs: J Birchall 32, K Nissen 5-33, R. Malook 5-36);
Cheadle Hulme 88-2 (16.2 overs: A Wilde 50no).

CHRISTLETON (25 pts.) beat WIDNES (toss, 7 pts.) by 6 wickets:

Widnes 177 (47 overs: I. Spencer 61, D. Naughton 42, I. De Silva 5-59, M Parkinson 3-22);
Christleton 179-4 (31 overs: B Patterson 80no, G Newell 45no).

HEATON MERSEY (7 pts.) lost to CHEADLE (25 pts.) by 2 wickets:

Heaton Mersey 153-9 (50 overs: A Ayre 71, S. O'Brian 5-68);
Cheadle 154-8 (27 overs: P. Prince 46, G Dixon 41, N. Hussain 6-61).

MIDDLEWICH (toss, 4 pts.) lost to URMSTON (25 pts.) by 5 wickets:

Middlewich 118 (45 overs: S Panda 6-35);
Urmston 122-5 (27 overs: K Dickenson 35).

OULTON PARK (toss, 8 pts.) drew with BRAMHALL (12 pts.)

Bramhall 170-9 (50 overs: N Cantello 75no, M Jamieson 60, R Moore 3-19);
Oulton Park 168-8 (32 overs: R Moore 50, S. Wilkinson 3-68).

Played on Sunday, August 18

OULTON PARK (11 pts.) lost to CHEADLE (won toss, 25 pts.) by 2 wickets

Oulton Park 267-9 dec. (49 overs: L Bentley 100, A. Mills 56, S. O'Brien 3-55, D. Brown 3-88);
Cheadle 268-8 (49 overs: J Prince 104, A. Wilson 74, G. Dixon 41, M. East 6-93.)

AUGUST 17 NEWSLETTER: 4

..... AND DIVISION TWO

ALVANLEY (6 pts.) drew with POYNTON (toss, 13 pts.):

Poynton 217-5 (47 overs: P Gould 96, D Stringer 57);

Alvanley 156-7 (37 overs: M Szymura 35, E. Speakman 32no, A. Bennion 32, D Stringer 3-40).

Match originally reduced to 94 overs.

CONGLETON (25 pts.) beat TATTENHALL (5 pts.) by 46 runs:

Congleton 201-8 (47 overs: J. Lamb 86, K Waterhouse 48no, G Forster 4-46, C Wilson 3-64);

Tattenhall 155 (37 overs: O Thompson 31, J Lamb 5-27).

Match initially reduced to 94 overs.

IRBY (13 pts.) drew with STOCKPORT (7 pts.):

Irby 217-6 (50 overs: D Gulliver 55, A Williams 50no, D. Newman 40, M Eley 3-48);

Stockport 159-8 (40 overs: J Manning 75, A Williams 4-21).

STOCKPORT GEORGIANS (toss, 4 pts.) lost to DAVENHAM (25 pts.) by 46 runs:

Davenham 128 (42 overs: B Gallagher 39, J Leggett 5-40, J. Devlin 3-41);

Stockport Georgians 82 (29 overs: D Jackson 4-34, J Lousher 3-28).

TIMPERLEY (toss, 25 pts.) beat BOLLINGTON (1 pt.) by 8 wickets:

Bollington 113 (39 overs):

Timperley 117-2 (20 overs):

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

Weaverham 149-6 (42 overs: J Nash 35, K Adams 6-75);

Warrington 150-7 (25 overs: R Heaney 50, C. Kirby 42, W. Cornwall 4-54).

Game originally reduced to 84 overs.

**Several results were not telephoned and some details above
have been obtained via the League website**

PICK OF WEEK (*o* = overseas; *c* = contracted)

ECB Premier League

Batting: Warren Goodwin (Chester) 164no v Macclesfield

Bowling: o Gayan Fernando (Oxton) 5-33 v Marple.

First Division

Batting: Tyrone Lawrence (Sale) 130 v Bredbury St. Mark's

Bowling: Sumit Panda (Urmston) 6-38 v Middlewich

Second Division

Batting: P Gould (Poynton) 96 v Alvanley.

Bowling: o Kyle Adams (Warrington) 6-75 v Weaverham.

2014 SEASON DATES FIXED

For clubs who like to make arrangements well in advance the following are the dates agreed by the Cricket Committee for the 2014 season:

Start: Saturday, April 19 (Easter week-end)

Finish: Saturday, September 13 and Sunday, September 14

How they stand after 18 games

ECB PREMIER	W (25)	T (16)	WD (3)	RD (2)	LD (1)	C (7)	L	Bat	Bowl	Pts.
CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL	12	0	2	1	0	0	3	31	18	357
NESTON (8)	12	0	2	1	1	0	2	26	21	348
GRAPPENHALL	8	0	2	2	0	0	6	65	18	293
HYDE	8	0	1	2	4	0	3	46	26	283
TOFT	8	0	1	0	0	2	7	44	18	279
OXTON	8	0	0	1	1	0	8	31	24	258
NANTWICH	7	0	1	0	1	1	8	38	20	244
ALDERLEY EDGE	7	0	1	0	2	1	7	31	23	241
BOWDON	5	0	1	2	0	0	10	56	32	220
MARPLE	5	0	2	1	1	0	9	56	27	217
MACCLESFIELD	3	0	1	0	3	1	10	61	24	173
DIDSBURY	3	0	0	1	1	0	13	63	32	173

Neston 8 points deducted for slow over rate. Confirmed following failed appeal.

DIVISION 1

BRAMHALL	12	1	1	1	1	0	2	32	17	371
URMSTON	12	1	0	0	1	0	4	23	7	347
CHEADLE HULME	11	0	2	0	2	0	3	30	23	336
BROOKLANDS	9	0	1	0	1	0	7	28	18	275
SALE	6	2	2	1	0	0	7	55	16	261
OULTON PARK	6	0	2	2	2	0	6	52	35	249
CHEADLE	6	0	2	1	2	0	7	43	34	237
WIDNES	6	0	2	0	0	0	10	47	24	227
CHRISTLETON	4	0	4	0	2	0	8	76	32	222
MIDDLEWICH	5	0	1	0	5	0	7	33	33	199
HEATON MERSEY	3	0	3	0	1	0	11	52	41	178
BREDBURY ST. MARK'S	3	0	0	0	3	1	11	57	26	168

DIVISION 2

TIMPERLEY	15	0	1	0	1	0	1	10	11	400
STOCKPORT	11	1	1	1	0	0	4	22	13	331
WARRINGTON	11	0	1	0	2	0	4	19	18	317
DAVENHAM	9	0	3	0	1	0	5	43	28	306
CONGLETON	10	0	2	0	0	0	6	28	17	301
TATTENHALL	10	0	1	0	1	0	6	24	21	299
POYNTON	7	1	1	1	1	0	7	39	29	265
WEAVERHAM	7	0	2	0	3	0	6	50	29	263
IRBY	4	0	0	1	2	0	11	45	27	176
ALVANLEY	3	0	0	1	1	0	13	42	28	148
STOCKPORT GEORGIANS	1	1	2	0	1	0	13	50	35	133
BOLLINGTON	1	0	2	0	2	0	13	43	32	108

HYDE TASK AT ORMSKIRK

HYDE will be aiming to reach the **ECB t20 National Finals Day** for the second time in three years on Sunday when they visit Liverpool Competition high-fliers Ormskirk in the North-West Regional Final. The match starts at 2 pm.

Sunday, September 1 is the stand-by date in case of rain.

Hyde expect to field the squad which disposed of Stone and Shrewsbury in the Area final at Werneth Low:

Danny Berry (captain), Tom Twiney, Chris Tipper, James Duffy, Scott Kirwin, Dave Fitzsimmons, Dan Cranmer, Mark Makin (wicket-keeper), Rob Brierley, Tom Young, Greg Lomax,

The three other regional finals line up like this ...

Wimbledon v Frocester;

Peterborough Town v Banbury;

Chester le Street v Pudsey Congs.

Finals Day is at the Kia Oval on Friday, September 13 when the Regional winners will play off

Macc's Cheshire Cup final incentive

INCENTIVE for Macclesfield to win their second **Cheshire Cup** semi-final at home to New Brighton next Sunday (1.30 p.m.) is the right to stage the final on Sunday, September 1.

The winners will host holders Chester Boughton Hall, who won by 10 wickets at Birkenhead Park in the first semi-final on August 11,

The final of the **Cheshire Shield** is on Sunday, August 25 between Romiley and Bramhall (12.30p.m.). Second semi-final result: Romiley 265; Port Sunlight 223. .

Information supplied by Cheshire Cups organiser Rick Davis.

Chester to host Bootle

CHESTER have won the toss for the right to stage the final of the **Liverpool Echo knock-out** against Bootle.

The date of the game which is a two innings T20 affair has not yet been agreed, but is likely to be on Sunday, September 15 at Filkins Lane (12.30 p.m.)

Under 19s at Grappenhall

GRAPPENHALL's Broad Lane ground is to stage the two-day Under 19s county match between Lancashire and Middlesex on Thursday and Friday, August 22 and 23, 11 a.m. start daily.

O THE League Junior Section AGM is to be held at Warrington Sports Club on Sunday, September 29 at 5 pm.

O THE special yearly meeting of Third XI club representatives is at Warrington Sports Club on Wednesday, October 16 at 8 p.m.

Main item for discussion will be the proposed regionalisation of Sunday cricket and the reduction of overs, etc. This will not be voted upon until the January, 2014 management meeting.

O ASHLEY (Cheshire League) and Haslington (Cheshire Alliance) have sounded out the possibility of playing in the League's Third XI Saturday divisional set up in 2014.

O THE League are to consider introducing lap top scoring for clubs in the First Division in 2014. At present only ECB Premier League clubs officially operate the system.

O UMPIRE Graham Harris has withdrawn from the League panel for the remainder of the season.

Players suspended

WARRINGTON captain RICHARD HEANEY has been suspended for three weeks, two of them suspended, for the abuse of an opposition player in a Division Two match against Stockport Georgians on Saturday, July 27.

JAMES WILLIAMS (Poynton) has been suspended for three weeks for abuse of an umpire in a Division Two match against Stockport on Saturday, August 3rd.

MATT DAWSON (Bollington) has been suspended for one week for dissent in a match against Stockport Georgians on Saturday, August 10.

Four share Fair Play lead

UP to Week 16 (Saturday, August 3) four clubs shared top place in the **Fair Play League** table, which is devised by John Lofthouse from reports submitted to him by umpires on teams' general behaviour

Significantly, three teams are from Division One, namely Bredbury St. Mark's, Christleton and Heaton Mersey, two of them in the current relegation zone, plus Tattenhall from Division Two. So Premier League teams need to pull up their socks if any has a desire to win the Eddie Howard Shield.

PLACINGS TO AUGUST 3

1=	with mark of 4 points	Bredbury, Christleton, Heaton Mersey, Tattenhall
5 =	3.97	Cheadle Hulme, Oulton Park
7=	3.91	Hyde, Marple
9=	3.88	Bramhall, Brooklands, Irby, Poynton, Urmston
14	3.84	Stockport
15	3.81	Warrington
16	3.80	Macclesfield
17=	3.78	Bollington, Bowdon, Middlewich, Sale, Stockport Georgians, Weaverham
12	3.77	Cheadle
24=	3.75	Congleton, Widnes
26=	3.72	Alderley Edge, Grappenhall
28	3.69	Neston
29	3.67	Toft
30	3.66	Alvanley
31	3.59	Davenham
32	3.56	Chester Boughton Hall
33	3.53	Timperley
34	3.47	Didsbury
35	3.31	Nantwich
36	3.25	Oxton

LEAGUE DINNER DATE

CLUBS have been sent colour posters with details of the League Presentation Dinner at The Mere (Mere Golf & Country Club) on Friday, October 4, when former Surrey and England player Alec Stewart will be guest speaker.

All clubs are now required to buy three tickets (at the unchanged price of £30)

The coordinator is again John Bygate

NEW SANDY SCRIMGEOUR TROPHY

THE League are to purchase a new Aggregate Trophy and name it after their late Fixture secretary Sandy Scrimgeour. His widow, Elise, is being invited to present it at the Dinner.

UMPIRES' COURSES

DETAILS of two Level One courses for potential umpires, coaches or players, have been announced.

O AT HALE BARNS Cricket Club on eight Tuesdays starting October 1, 2013 from 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.

O AT OAKMERE Cricket Club on eight Wednesdays starting on January 15, 2014, same times. Both courses cost £40 to attend.

For further information or to enrol: contact Geoff Young on 01352 755 881; curzon99@tiscali.com or Dave Lawson 01606 76587; Lmaureen4@aol.com.

UPTON GRANT

UPTON have been granted £49,000 by Sport England which, added to £5,000 being raised themselves, is to be spent on the reconstruction of the club's tea rooms. It is hoped to have the new extension ready for the start of the 2014 season – in whichever league Upton are then playing.

Forties' meeting date

THE special end of season meeting of **Over Forties** club representatives is to be held at Warrington Sports Club on Wednesday, October 16 at 7 p.m.

All clubs who took part in 2013 or who are seeking admission for 2014 should attend, although the latter are invited to make contact with MTB in advance.. Compstall have already indicated their wish to enter.

Draw for the Finals Day play-offs at Upton on Late Summer Holiday, August 26, sponsored by TailorMade Group pensions is:

Main ground: **ALSAGER DABBERS** (Central group champions) v **NESTON** (West champions): umpires Barrie Burns and Jon Hacking.

Second ground: **BREDBURY SAINTS** (South-East champions) v **URMSTON TIGERS** (North-East champions): umpires Dion Kelly and Ged Kinsey. Both start at 12 noon. Tea follows at 2.50 – 3.20 pm with the winners meeting on the main ground in the final for the Chapel Press Trophy at 3.30 pm. Final umpires to be appointed from officials named above on day.

Result of the outstanding Central group game on Wednesday, August 14 was:

BOWDON (4 pts.) beat BOWDON VALE VIKINGS by 45 runs:

Bowdon (18 overs): 120-7 (Gray 31, Foster 30); Bowdon Vale 75-8 (18 overs: Bottomley 27, Burgess 3-14).

FINAL TABLES

<u>West group</u>	P	W (4)	T (3)	C (2)	L	Points
1. NESTON	12	7	0	3	2	34 <u>champions</u>
2= IRBY	12	7	0	2	3	32
2= TATTENHALL WRECKERS	12	7	0	2	3	32
4. CALDY	12	5	0	2	5	24
5. OXTON	12	5	0	0	7	20
6. CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL	12	4	0	0	8	16
7. UPTON	12	2	0	1	9	10

Conceded games: Upton (2) and Chester (1).

Central group

1. ALSAGER DABBERS	14	9	1	3	1	45 <u>champions</u>
2. TOFT	14	8	2	3	1	44
3. GRAPPENHALL	14	8	1	3	2	41
4. BOWDON	14	7	0	2	5	32
5. BOWDON VALE VIKINGS	14	5	0	2	7	24
6. DAVENHAM	14	3	0	3	8	18
7. ASHLEY	14	2	0	3	9	14
8. MOBBERLEY	14	1	0	3	10	10

Conceded games: Davenham (2), Mobberley (2), Ashley and Bowdon Vale Vikings.

North-East group

1. URMSTON TIGERS	14	10	0	3	1	46 <u>champions</u>
2. CHEADLE HULME	14	7	1	3	3	37
3. SALE SILVERBACKS	14	6	0	2	6	28
4. ALDERLEY EDGE VIKINGS	14	5	0	3	6	26
5. CHEADLE	14	4	1	3	6	25
6=.CHEADLE HULME LADYBRIDGE	14	5	0	2	7	24
6= BROOKLANDS	14	5	0	2	7	24
8. WARRINGTON	14	3	0	2	9	16

Conceded games: Cheadle Hulme Ladybridge (5), Sale (3), Warrington (1).

South-East group

1. BREDBURY SAINTS	14	11	0	2	1	48 <u>champions</u>
2. P OYNTON LEGENDS	14	7	0	3	4	34
3=.BOLLINGTON VETERANS	14	6	0	3	5	30
3= BRAMHALL	14	6	0	3	5	30
5. WOODLEY	14	6	0	1	7	26
6. MACCLESFIELD	14	3	1	3	7	21
7. MARPLE	14	4	0	2	8	20
8. OFFERTON	14	2	1	3	8	17

Conceded games: Marple (1), Poynton Legends (1).

August 10 ... pitch & ground marks

UMPIRES' ground marks from games played on Saturday, August 10 were as follows:

ECB Premier League: Bowdon v Oxton: pitch 18 outfield 18; Hyde v Neston missing ; Macclesfield v Didsbury 18 – 17; Marple v Grappenhall 15 – 19; Nantwich v Alderley Edge 20 – 19; Toft v Chester 15 – 19.

First Division: Brooklands v Bredbury 15 – 16; Cheadle v Bramhall late sheet; Cheadle Hulme v Oulton Park 15 –14; Sale v Middlewich 15 – 16; Urmston v Christleton 15 – 17; Widnes v Heaton Mersey missing.

Second Division: Bollington v Stockport Georgians 18 – 15; Davenham v Irby 14 - 17; Stockport v Congleton 19 – 20; Tattenhall v Poynton 18 – 19; Warrington v Alvanley 5-5-5-4 = 19; 4-5-4-5 = 18; Weaverham v Timperley 16 – 18.

All captains' reports were again received by co ordinator Ken Spilsbury.

LOOKING BACK ...

O Batting at Bowdon, Oxton reached 170-4 before losing their last six wickets for 25 runs, mostly to former Lancashire player Mark Chilton (4-34). In Bowdon's losing reply, five batsmen failed to score

O Toft have been congratulated by Chester skipper Steve Ogilby for fine hospitality after their comprehensive home defeat.

“Credit is due to Toby Drummond and his team for they way they took their defeat and made us so welcome in the bar. They are a top lot”, says the CBH man.

O The Cheadle v Bramhall result was not telephoned last Saturday evening, nor was their result sheet received as required by the following Wednesday. Still celebrating 150th Anniversary Cricket Week? Other result sheets not submitted: Hyde v Neston; Widnes v Middlewich; while Davenham v Irby and Warrington v Alvanley were late.. It is essential that all result sheets are submitted otherwise clubs will lose out on marks for their pitches and outfield

O Bowled out for 98 in a heavy defeat at Brooklands, two Bredbury batsmen (Paul Wood and Alan Hilder) both scored 34 runs, eight others failing to reach double figures.

Christleton have top pitch AND outfield

IN statistics released by Grounds chairman John Bygate, up to and including August 10, Christleton lead the League pitch table with an average mark of 19.33 (maximum 20).

They are followed by Middlewich (18.88), Grappenhall (18.33) and Stockport (18.20). At the foot of the table are Poynton (14.78), Davenham (15.29), Cheadle Hulme (15.50) and Bollington (15.78).

The best outfield marks have also been scored by Christleton, with a maximum average of 20, followed by Tattenhall (19.71), Heaton Mersey and Nantwich (both 19.60) .At the foot of the table are Davenham (16.50), Congleton (16.63), Brooklands (16.75).and Bollington (16.88).

Secretary Geoff Wellsted has circulated full lists to clubs.

TACS CHESHIRE LEAGUE UPSET

NORTHWICH suffered a shock home defeat against lowly Prestbury to damage their **TACS Cheshire Cricket League** First Division promotion hopes.

Mobberley won by seven wickets at Winnington Park to go 22 points clear at the top and Upton closed up in third place with a six wickets win at nearby Oakmere. Upton host Northwich in a key fixture on Saturday.

RESULTS: Chester County Officers 99 Ashton on Mersey 100-3; Hale Barns 118-9 Malpas did not bat; Northwich 137 Prestbury 160; Oakmere 156 Upton 159-4; Romiley 229-2 dec. Runcorn 143-7; Winnington Park 78 Mobberley 82-3.

LATEST PLACINGS: 1. Mobberley 366 pts.; 2. Northwich 344; 3.Upton 338; 4. Ashton on Mersey 304; 5. Romiley 297; 6. Malpas 281; 7. Hale Barns 243; 8. Oakmere 224; 9. CCO 217; 10. Runcorn 214; 11. Prestbury 167; 12. Winnington Park 136. Division 2 leaders: 1. Mere 385; 2. Lindow 336. Division 3 leaders: 1. Over Peover 351; 2. Disley 345. At the bottom: 10.. Wirral 201; 11. Alderley Park 192; 12. The Groves 183.

FIXTURES in Division 1 on Saturday, August 24 (1.30 pm.): Ashton on Mersey v Hale Barns; Malpas v Winnington Park; Mobberley v Romily; Prestbury v CCO; Runcorn v Oakmere; Upton v Northwich.

Information supplied by Graham Coull, Cheshire League vice chairman.

Duffy 203 as Cheshire near title

CHESHIRE took a major step towards winning the **Minor Counties Western division** title when they amassed 455-8 against rivals Shropshire at Nantwich on Sunday, with Hyde's James Duffy contributing a massive personal best 203.

Put into bat before a large crowd in fine, sunny conditions, Cheshire struggled early to 156-5 until Ric Moore (35) steadied the boat. Duffy and Hyde clubmate Danny Berry (62) then added 136 for the sixth wicket and with another Hyde player Scott Kirwin smashing a rapid 62, Cheshire closed on their highest tally of the season at 455-8 off 90 overs..

Shropshire had reached 54-1 off 24 overs by the close, with former Surrey batsman Chris Murtagh unbeaten on 29.

Cheshire went into the game – which continues on Monday and Tuesday at 11 a.m. daily - leading second-placed Wales by 16 points and although Wales are likely to beat Dorset at Bournemouth, they cannot catch Cheshire if they can add four bowling points to the four batting points already banked, then follow up with at least eight draw points.

If Cheshire win they will claim the title and go on to meet the Eastern group champions away from Sunday – Wednesday, September 8 – 11.

In a lunchtime ceremony on Sunday, Cheshire's Elise Scrimgeour, widow of late team manager Sandy Scrimgeour, presented her new annual Player of the Year award to skipper Danny Woods.

WEST DIVISION LEADERS BEFORE FINAL GAMES

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
CHESHIRE	5	5	0	0	112
WALES MC	5	4	0	1	96
SHROPSHIRE	5	4	1	0	95

DEVELOPMENT XI. Cheshire played their Staffordshire counterparts at Macclesfield on Thursday, August 15 winning by 144 runs. Scores: Cheshire 336-6 (Pat Ashling 159); Staffs 192 (PMR Roberts 4-34, Ross Dixon 3-49).

A return match against Staffs is at Knypersley on Thursday, August 22

SCOTLAND VISIT. Alderley Edge are to stage an attractive three-day friendly between Lancashire 2nd and Scotland A from Tuesday – Thursday, August 27 – 29 (11 a.m. daily).

Alistair Davies's Umpires Quiz: Week 18

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION: The umpires consider that the light is unreasonable and could be dangerous, so decide to suspend play. The batsmen at the crease ask if play can continue. What should be the umpires' response?

ANSWER: As soon as both umpires agree that the light conditions are dangerous or unreasonable, play must be suspended. Play will only be resume when both umpires are satisfied that the light conditions are no longer dangerous or unreasonable. **Law 3.9**

THIS WEEK: A player has bowled the last over but one before the drinks interval. During that interval, he practices bowling on an adjoining pitch with another player fielding the ball. On the restart, he prepares himself to bowl the next over. Should the umpire take any action – if so, what?

Over 60s reach quarters

CHESHIRE pulled off a fine five wickets victory over Leicestershire at Lutterworth in the last 16 play-off for the **Spitfire 60 Plus county championship**, of which they are the holders. Scores: Leicestershire 163-9 (45 overs: Alan Hitchmough 4-32, Bob Yardley 3-41); Cheshire 166-5 (42 overs: Andy Hurworth 69 not out, John Edwards 27 not out).

Cheshire now meet old rivals Derbyshire in the quarter-finals at West Hallam CC on Tuesday this week (1 p.m.).

FIXTURES & UMPIRES FOR SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

ECB Premier League (12.30 p.m.)

BOWDON v HYDE	Trevor Burnett & David Moss
DIDSBURY v CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL	Paul Herring & Chris Smith
MACCLESFIELD v GRAPPENHALL	Barrie Burns & Dion Kelly
MARPLE v ALDERLEY EDGE	Neville Kent & Glyn Roberts
NANTWICH v NESTON	Phil Prince & Gary Zimmer
TOFT v OXTON	Don Flanagan & Ankit Jain

First Division (1 p.m.)

BRAMHALL v HEATON MERSEY	Alistair Davies & Steve Kirkbright
BROOKLANDS v OULTON PARK	Clive Rice & Wyn Harris
CHEADLE v CHRISTLETON	Garry Hambleton & Simon Smith
SALE v CHEADLE HULME	David Gane & Ray Prescott
URMSTON v BREDBURY ST. MARK'S	Howard Briggs & Ged Kinsey
WIDNES v MIDDLEWICH	Ken Simpson & Geoff Wellstead

Second Division (1 p.m.)

BOLLINGTON v WARRINGTON	John Lowe & Jim Whitehead
DAVENHAM v TIMPERLEY	Jon Hacking & Allan Lewis
POYNTON v CONGLETON	Neville Abberley & Ron Bedson
STOCKPORT v STOCKPORT GEORGIANS	Ken Rothwell & David Tate
TATTENHALL v IRBY	Bob Cunningham & Brian Jones
WEAVERHAM v ALVANLEY	Brian Connery & Tony Morris

2nd XI Premier Division (1 p.m.)

*ALDERLEY EDGE v URMSTON	David Stoter
CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL v DIDSBURY	
GRAPPENHALL v MACCLESFIELD	
HYDE v SALE	
MIDDLEWICH v TOFT	
NESTON v NANTWICH	

*This is the only game for which a panel umpire is available.

Last Word ...

DISTRIBUTION of next week's *Newsletter* will be a day late on Tuesday, August 27 due to time-consuming events over the Late Summer Holiday week-end.

Copies will go out to the Press, as usual, early on Monday, August 26.

Apologies in advance, folks.

