



2013 SEASON NEWSLETTER NO. 1: APRIL 20

Mixed fortune for promotees in sunny start to season

GRAPPENHALL and Bowdon, the two clubs promoted to the **ECB Premier League**, experienced different fortunes when the 2013 season opened in unexpectedly warm sunshine on Saturday.

Grappenhall pulled off an impressive 18 runs win at Oxton in a high-scoring game which produced 514 runs, their key men being the McCoy brothers James (97) and Luke (44) in an impressive tally of 266-6. Worcestershire left-arm spinner Shaaiq Choudhury took an expensive 4-70.

Oxton also batted well and finished only 18 runs short on 248 thanks to 49 each from Andy Gibson and Gayan Fernando, plus a quality 45 from Alex Hughes, newly-arrived teenage talent from Irby. L. Williams claimed 3-28 and debut Aussie McClelland 3-55 for the winners.

On a South Downs Road pitch in tip-top condition, Bowdon were surprised by Toft, losing by one wicket in a fine match with many good qualities. Newly-arrived from the Essex Premier League and brother of Essex county player Ben Foakes, Matthew Foakes top-scored with 76 and Chris Ashling 41 in Bowdon's modest 168-7. No one was able to shake off the accuracy of Jimmy Lomas, who bowled unchanged for 28 overs to return 6-42.

Toft edged home on 170-9 with more than five overs the spare, Toby Drummond playing a skipper's innings of 55 not out aided by Henry Hughes 43 a tail-ender David Walters who hit winning boundary. Zafir Patel took 4-61 and former Cheshire and Glamorgan player Ashling, who made an immediate impression, claimed 3-41.

Champions foiled by Melrose

Champions Nantwich were held to a winning draw at home by Macclesfield after posting 229-6, Jonny Kettle 80 and Lancashire Academy batsman Liam Livingstone, 76, on debut, putting on 144 for the second wicket. Rob Porter took 4-55.

Macclesfield were saved from likely defeat by number eight batsman Craig Melrose with a quality innings of 60 not out, closing on 182-8.

Neston opened with a fine three wickets win at Marple after bowling their hosts out for 179, Beau Webster 52, MCC Young Cricketer and England 12th man Andy Clarke 5-55. Will Evans, 45 and Luke Camden, 39, top-scored in Neston's reply of 183-7, Andy Greasley 4-59.

Hyde batsmen demolished Didsbury at Werneth Low after restricting their visitors to 200-9, former Stockport Georgians all-rounder Simon Normanton top-scoring with 53 on debut. Danny Cranmer- back after a long injury - claimed 4-77.

Chris Tipper (105) cracked the first Premiership century of the new campaign as he and James Duffy, 62 not out, saw Hyde over the line with seven wickets and six overs to spare.

Chester Boughton Hall chalked up the highest tally of the day in a winning draw at Alderley Edge. They scored 273-7, Warren Goodwin 92, Lee Dixon 62, Steve Ogilby and Ross Dixon both 32, Alan Day 3-10, Charlie Reid 3-91.

Reid did well with the bat after tea, his unbeaten 51 helping Edge close on 203-6, Jason Whittaker scoring 47 and Jon Steele 43.

CHESHIRE LOSE TO HEREFORD

INSERTED on a difficult track, Cheshire lost by seven wickets to Herefordshire at Brockhampton on Sunday in their opening **Minor Counties Trophy** game.

Cheshire stuttered to 147 (Scott Kirwin 38, James Duffy 33, Don Conway 4-28) after being 8-3 and 21-4. Hereford replied with a comfortable 161-3 in 32 overs, Adam Syddall, Warren Goodwin and Danny Woods taking one wicket each.

Cheshire's next match is against Cambridgeshire at Tattenhall on Sunday, May 5 (11 a.m.) which they need to win to help progress from the group to the quarter-finals. In the same group on Sunday, holders Cumberland won at Cambridge.

DIVISION 1: Good start for Middlewich

MIDDLEWICH made a good start to life in **Division 1** when they dismissed Christleton for 89 at Haddon Field, winning by 96 runs. Club chairman Gavin Tomlinson took 5-23 on a perfect batting pitch prepared by his groundsman dad, Geoff.

Also promoted, Cheadle lost by 90 runs at Brooklands after they were bowled out for 114 in response to the home side's 204-9. For Brooklands, one of the league's best all-rounders, John Birchall, scored 38 and took 3-6.

Relegated Widnes lost by nine wickets at Sale for whom impressive South African all-rounder Calvin Flowers marked his return to the League with 3-42, then an unbeaten 60. Nick Moores partnered him with an unbeaten 65 for Sale who could be a force this season under new skipper Halkon who took 4-41 to bowl Widnes out for 149. .

Oulton power

The second relegated club, Urmston also lost, by five wickets at home to Oulton Park. Their tally of 238-5 (Samit Panda 79, Callum Turner 41, Guy Emmett 4-77) proved insufficient against Louis Bentley, 68, Martyn East, 51 and a late onslaught of 45 not out off 25 balls from bowler Craig Williamson.

Heaton Mersey's Canberra batsman Aaron Ayre produced an eye-popping debut in his side's 108 runs win at Bredbury St. Mark's. Ayre cracked 150 off 99 deliveries in an impressive tally of 267-5. Another debutant, Mark Cole went on to take 4-24 as St. Mark's were bowled out for 159, Chris Nuttall 45.

Bramhall inflicted a seven wickets defeat on Cheadle Hulme in a low-scoring derby clash at Grove Park. 'Hulme mustered only 155, Rupe Kitzinger 5-67, Simon Wilkinson 4-37 and Bramhall replied with a comfortable 156-3, debut Aussie Mark Begbie scoring 53 not out. Begbie keeps wicket for Victoria Under 19s and recently helped Melbourne win the Victoria top grade grand final.

Davenham win thriller in DIVISION 2

THERE was a large crowd to see Davenham make their league debut against old foes Alvanley at Butcher's Stile - and the home fans were well rewarded.

Davenham mustered only 157, Chris Hornby scoring a key, unbeaten 50, Lee Ainsworth 3-30. Alvanley were sailing home at 80-2 when Andy Bennion was out for a rapid 51. Then teenage South African Johan Louser, who had arrived in the UK only in mid-week, took charge with his off-spin leaving Alvanley one run short on 156. Louser took 4-28 and could trouble all batsmen in this division..

The other debutants, Weaverham lost by five wickets at home to Tattenhall, who were the better side throughout. Weaverham recovered from 97-6 to post 176, Jon Lightfoot 32, Kevin Douglas 31, New Zealander Dan Power 3-28, skipper Robin Mulvihill 3-50. Tattenhall passed this tally with five wickets to spare, Tom Hyslop 68 and the evergreen John Gibbon 46. .

Impressive Stockport

Stockport were impressive 96 runs winners away to relegated Bollington, whom they bowled out for 133, Jake Dickenson 43 not out, Tom Facer 5-44. Earlier, yet another Aussie debutant, Jake Manning, slammed an unbeaten 117 in a handy Stockport tally of 229-5

Stockport Georgians closed 12-7 points ahead of Irby in a drawn game at Cromley Road after totting up 191-8, Haydn Bailey 84, Colin Gibson 4-58. In reply, Irby reached a respectable 179-8, Dave Newman 65, Ifti Hussein 4-63.

Timperley looked strong in a 96 runs home defeat of Congleton, running up 218-4, Pat Ashling 56 off 27 balls, Mike Stevens 54. Congleton were bowled out for 122, Kevin Waterhouse 35, Stevens 4-28, Ian Grindley 4-30, Ashling taking four catches.

Warrington beat Poynton by two wickets at Walton Lea after restricting their visitors to 176-9, Damien Stringer 32. Warrington edged it at 177-8 with one ball remaining, skipper Richard Heaney 48, Stringer 4-34.

PICK OF WEEK

Premier League batting: Chris Tipper (Hyde) 105 v Didsbury

Bowling: Jimmy Lomas (Toft) 6-42 v Bowdon

First Division batting: Aaron Ayre (Heaton Mersey) 150 on debut v Bredbury.

Bowling: Gavin Tomlinson (Middlewich) 5-23 v Christleton

Second Division batting: Josh Manning (Stockport) 117no on debut v Bollington

Bowling: T. Facer (Stockport) 5-44 v Bollington.

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ECB PREMIER LEAGUE RESULTS

ALDERLEY EDGE (won toss) v CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL

Chester 273-7 (55 overs: W Goodwin 92, L. Dixon 62, S. Ogilby 32, R. Dixon 32, A. Day 3-10, C. Reid 3-92);
Alderley Edge 203-6 (55 overs: C. Reid 51no, J. Whittaker 47, J Steele 43).

MATCH DRAWN: Chester 13 pts., Alderley Edge 7 pts.

BOWDON v TOFT (toss)

Bowdon 168-9 (55 overs: M. Foakes 76, C. Ashling 37, J Lomas 6-42);
Toft 170-9 (50 overs: T. Drummond 53no, H. Hughes 44, Z. Patel 4-61, C. Ashling 3-41).

TOFT won by 1 wicket: 25 – 8 pts.

HYDE v DIDSBURY

Didsbury 200-9 (55 overs: S. Normanton 53, D Cranmer 4-77);
Hyde 202-3 (49): C. Tipper 105, J. Duffy 62no, N Anderson 3-58).

HYDE won by 7 wickets: 25 – 10 pts.

MARPLE v NESTON (toss)

Marple 179 (48 overs: B. Webster 52, A. Clarke 5-55);
Neston 180-7 (48 overs: W. Evans 49, L Camden 39, A. Greasley 4-59).

NESTON won by 3 wickets: 25 – 7 pts.

NANTWICH (toss) v MACCLESFIELD

Nantwich 229-6 (55 overs: J. Kettle 80, L. Livingstone 76, R. Doyle 33, R. Porter 4-55); Macclesfield 182-8 (55 overs: C. Melrose 60no).MATCH DRAWN: Nantwich 13 pts., Macclesfield 5.

OXTON v GRAPPENHALL (won toss)

Grappenhall 266-7 (55 overs: J. McCoy 97, L. McCoy 44, R Green 37, A. Choudhury 4-70);
Oxton 248 (52 overs: A Gibson 49, F. Fernando 49, A. Hughes 45, L Williams 3-28; J. McClelland 45).

GRAPPENHALL won by 18 runs: 25 – 6 pts.

DIVISION 1 RESULTS

BREDBURY ST. MARK's (toss) v HEATON MERSEY

Heaton Mersey 267-4 dec. (49 pvers: A. Ayre 150, N. Hussain 39);
Bredbury 159 (42 overs: C Nuttall 45, M Cole 4-24)..

HEATON MERSEY won by 108 runs: 25 – 3 pts.

BROOKLANDS v CHEADLE (toss)

Brooklands 204-9 (50 overs: C Hart 50, J Birchall 38, M. Law 30, W. Holmes 4-59); Cheadle 114 (37 overs: J. Prince 58, J Birchall 3-6; AJ Hart 3-41).BROOKLANDS won by 90 runs: 25 – 5 pts.

CHEADLE HULME v BRAMHALL (toss)

Cheadle Hulme 155 (50 overs: G Narayanan 31, R. Kitzinger 5-62, S. Wilkinson 4-37);
Bramhall 156-3 (42 overs: M Bagbie 53no, R. Malook 3-26).

BRAMHALL won by 7 wickets: 25 – 5 pts.

MIDDLEWICH v CHRISTLETON (won toss)

Middlewich 185 (50 overs: J. Williams 68, M. Parkinson 3-51);
Christleton 89 (34 overs: G. Tomlinson 5-23).

MIDDLEWICH won by 96 runs: 25 – 4 pts.

SALE v WIDNES (toss)

Widnes 149 (50 overs: N. Brick 42, S Moore 38, R Halkon 4-41, C. Flowers 3-42);
Sale 152-1 (28 overs: N. Moores 65no, C. Flowers 60no)..

SALE won by 9 wickets: 25 – 4 pts.

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URMSTON (toss) vs OULTON PARK

Urmston 238-5 (50 overs: S Panda 79, C Turner 41, G Emmett 4-77);
Oulton Park 241-5 (49.1 overs: L Bentley 68, M East 51, C. Williamson 45no, A. Syddall 3-67).
OULTON PARK won by 5 wickets: 25 – 10 pts.

DIVISION 2 RESULTS

BOLLINGTON vs STOCKPORT (toss)

Stockport 229-5 (50 overs: J Manning 117no, R Barber 45, C Davies 44no, J. Dickenson 3-40);
Bollington 133 (35 overs): J Dickenson 43no, T Facer 5-44, N. Ely 3-46).
STOCKPORT won by 96 runs: 25 – 3 pts.

DAVENHAM vs ALVANLEY (toss)

Davenham 157 (41 overs: C Hornby 50, L. Ainscow 3-30);
Alvanley 156 (44 overs: A. Bennion 51, L. Louser 4-28).
DAVENHAM won by 1 run: 25 – 6 pts.

STOCKPORT GEORGIANS vs IRBY (toss)

Stockport Georgians 191-8 (50 overs: H Bailey 84, N. Tyers 31, C Gibson 4-58, G. Shillinglaw 3-59);
Irby 179-8 (50 overs: D Newman 65, A. Williams 45, M. Newman 36,I. Hussain 4-63).
MATCH DRAWN: Georgians 12 pts., Irby 7 pts..

TIMPERLEY vs CONGLETON (toss).

Timperley 218-4 (50 overs: P Ashling 56, M. Stevens 54, C Grindley 41);
Congleton 122 (40 overs: K Waterhouse 35, I Grindley 4-30, M. Stevens 4-18).
TIMPERLEY won by 96 runs: 35 – 2 pts.

WARRINGTON vs POYNTON (toss)

Poynton 176-9 (50 overs: D Stringer 32);
Warrington 177-8 (49.5 overs: R Heaney 38, C. Kirby 32, D. Stringer 4-34, R. Clarke 3-51).
WARRINGTON won by 2 wickets: 25 – 6 pts.

WEAVERHAM vs TATTENHALL (toss)

Weaverham 176 (50 overs: J. Lightfoot 32, K. Douglas 31, D. Power 3-28, A. Mulvihill 3-50);
Tattenhall 179-5 (49 overs: T Hyslop 68, J. Gibbon 46).
TATTENHALL won by 5 wickets: 25 – 8 pts.

‘Exciting times’ for Vivio

JAMES Wright, Director of Vivio, the League’s new sponsors, told the pre-season management meeting at Warrington that these were exciting times for the telecommunications industry.

He said: “We are locally based, at Chester with a staff of 50 and well integrated into cricket as my sons play at Chester Boughton Hall. The industry is set to take a big leap forward this year and I can foresee important developments . We have some exciting stuff to offer and anyone from the League who would like to contact us will get special consideration”.

O Vivio, who plan to deliver display posters to every club are based at The Vault, 8, Boughton, Chester CH3 5AG. Tel. 01244 305 130.or e-mail info@vivio.co.uk

Beware of tax man

CLUBS were warned that HMRC were engaging in a purge of clubs in the ECB Premier League and had already investigated the books of Alderley Edge, Marple and Neston.

Marple chairman Andy Greasley told the pre-season management meeting : “The Revenue are probing payments made to overseas players, other players and bar staff and groundsmen, with particular attention given to PAYE records. My advice to clubs is to make sure your books are in order and if in doubt, get hold of a good tax adviser”

O TOFT have a record 40 sponsorship deals signed up for the 2013 season

35 special registrations

A TOTAL of 35 Special Category players had been registered by Assistant secretary Tony Morris up to and including Saturday, April 20. Players in the three special categories must be officially registered before they can appear in League matches..

Overseas players (26)

ALDERLEY EDGE: Shiv Segal (Indian batsman, aged 19, has played state cricket for Uttar Pradesh)

BOLLINGTON: Travis Salisbury (Australian batsman, aged 23).

BOWDON: Trent McCormick (Australian batsman, 24)

BRAMHALL: Matthew Begbie (Australian all-rounder, 19, Melbourne)

BREDBURY ST. MARK'S: Andrew Hilder (Australian all-rounder, 24)

BROOKLANDS: John Grewar (South African all-rounder, 20, Durban).

CHEADLE: Simon O'Brien (Australian all-rounder).

CHEADLE HULME: Kris Nissen (aged 26, Australian all-rounder, Brisbane)

CONGLETON: Jerry Lamb (New Zealand all-rounder, Marlborough).

DAVENHAM: Johan Louser (19, South African all-rounder).

DIDSBURY: Dinidu Jayatillake (Sri Lankan all-rounder, 25).

GRAPPENHALL: Josh McClelland (19, Australian all-rounder, Brisbane).

HEATON MERSEY: Aaron Ayre (20, Australian wicket-keeper/batsman, Canberra).

HYDE: Sam Stephens (26, Australian all-rounder, Sydney).

IRBY: Andrew Williams (26, Australian all-rounder, Sydney).

MACCLESFIELD (Nick Ross (23, Australian batsman, Melbourne)

MARPLE : Beau Webster (19, Australian all-rounder, Tasmania).

OXTON: Gayan Farnando (28, Sri Lanka all-rounder, third season).

SALE: Calvin Flowers (28, South African all-rounder, second season).

STOCKPORT: Josh Manning (18, Australian batsman, Victoria).

STOCKPORT GEORGIANS: Jeremy Devlin (19, Australian all-rounder).

TATTENHALL: Daniel Power (21, New Zealand batsman, Dunedin).

TIMPERLEY: Matthew Macquet (19, New Zealand all-rounder, second season)

TOFT: Jake Hancock (Australian batsman, second season).

WARRINGTON : Kyle Adams (26, Australian fast bowler , broke Division 2 bowling record in 2012 with 87 wickets).

WEAVERHAM: Wilden Cornwall (39, West Indian all-rounder, Antigua).

Ordinarily resident players (6)

BREDBURY ST. MARK'S: Vijay Muslapuram; Peter Zybrands; CHRISTLETON: Iftikhar Naseer; MACCLESFIELD: Adnan Khan; TATTENHALL: Tom Hyslop; UPTOM: Razi Khan (3rd & 4th XI only)

County contracted players (3)

CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL: Jordan Clark (Lancashire batsman: full-time contract).

NANTWICH: Liam Livingstone (Lancashire scholarship all-rounder).

OXTON: Shaaiq Choudhury (Worcestershire all-rounder, full-time contract)

Marathon effort by Gary Dixon

PLAYING cricket for Upton in the TACS Cheshire League this season, Gary Dixon is lined up to run 10 marathons inside eight months, then complete the Comrades Ultra Marathon over 54.5 miles in South Africa in June.

Given the size of his undertaking, Gary aims to raise as much money as possible for the MacMillan Cancer Support Charity and was featured on the front cover of MacMillan's website coverage of Sunday's Virgin London Marathon wearing his spectacular Robin Hood cloak. Gary finished in 4 hours 44 minutes – the day after taking the first wicket in Upton's League victory against Mobberley.

Gary - who has not yet run in the Boston Marathon, incidentally - has raised £4,500 mainly from corporate sponsors before Sunday. He says: "In July last year a good friend died from cancer aged 55 and his final months were made bearable by the wonderful MacMillan nurses. I would like to boost my current figure and invite support from anyone who knows me via the website <http://www.justgiving.com/gdixon61>"

Handbook corrections & amendments

PLEASE make the following corrections to your copy of the 2013 League Handbook:

PAGE 4: League Treasurer Matt Beckley e-mail: mbeckley@dtgroup.com

PAGE 130: Bredbury Under 9 joint managers Dave Norris & Lyndsay Cottton tel. 07956 558 325;

Under 13 manager: Dan Ashley tel. 07968 450 021;

Under 15 manager: Steph Mairs (as for Juniors organiser).

PAGE 134: Christleton League rep. Paul Evans e-mail: paul.evans@samedaybeers.co.uk

PAGE 139: Hyde 3rd XI captain Kyle O'Reilly. Tel. 07718 270 024; e-mail kyemufc@hotmail.com

4th XI captain Lee Brown. Tels. 01457 861 721 (h); 07990 954 256; e-mail: judiandleebrown@btinternet.com

PAGE 145: Neston 1st XI captain David Hurst mobile tel: 07778 508 694.

PAGE 146: Oulton Park chairman Syd Williams e-mail: h.p.williams@talk21.com.

Secretary & Fixture secretary Su Ramsbottom e-mail: rframsbottom@btinternet.com

1st XI captain Danny Leech: delete address and home tel. Mobile number and e-mail stand

Junior organiser Mike Garnett e-mail slimathome@sky.com

PAGE 147: Poynton 3rd XI captain Andy Heath tel. 07545 447 359 (m); e-mail: andyheath23@hotmail.co.uk

PAGE 148: Sale 1st XI captain Rick Halkon, tel. 07545 447 359 (m); e-mail rickhalkon@yahoo.co.uk

PAGE 176: Umpires expenses for 2013: ECB Premier League £40; First & Second Division and 2nd XI Premier Division £37; 1st and 2nd XI T20 £25 (unchanged); Cheshire Cup and Shield £35.

PAGE 219: Cheshire Development XI manager Matt Sharp mobile tel. 07854 500 034.

PAGE 239: Match regulation 7.3. After words '2 points each' add the following: In a drawn match in which the scores are equal, the team batting first shall be awarded the points earned for a draw and the team batting second shall be awarded points for a tie.

PAGE 240: GAMES INTERRUPTED AFTER START: Delete item 12. Item 13 becomes item 12.

PAGE 256: Acknowledgements: Canterbury Sports new title is Canterbury of New Zealand.

O Further amendments and corrections should be notified ASAP to the Editor.

O If anyone has a copy with important pages (e.g. rules and regs.) missing, please notify and an effort will be made to replace it.

Notifying umpires' marks

CAPTAINS are again required to notify co-ordinator Ken Spilsbury of their marks for umpires after every League match.

This should be done by phone to 0161 483 4185 (h) or 07747 605 051 (mobile) or by texting the latter number. Clubs have until the following Wednesday to make contact after which a £15 fine will be strictly imposed

2nd XI captains are reminded that they should submit umpires marks for all games covered by panel umpires.

UMPIRES QUIZ BY ALASTAIR DAVIES

THE League's Minor Counties umpire Alastair Davies will be setting a weekly quiz on the Laws of the Game throughout the 2013 season. The answer will appear the following week. Here is his first poser:

A wide ball is called when the delivery goes down the leg side. The wicket keeper gathers the ball and throws it at the stumps, but misses. It hits the striker who is standing out of his ground, but not attempting a run, and the ball rebounds onto the wickets and the bails falls.

There is an appeal. What should be the correct decision?

TACS Cheshire League results on Saturday, April 20:

DIVISION 1: Northwich 150-9 Ashton on Mersey 157; Oakmere 142 Hale Barns 174-6 dec.; Prestbury 118 Malpas 120-2;

Romiley 113-8 Winnington Park 109; Runcorn 159-8 Chester County Officers 192-6 dec.; Upton 164-3 Mobberley 160-7 dec.

FIXTURES on Saturday, April 27 (1.30 p.m.): Ashton on Mersey v Prestbury; Chester County Officers v Romiley; Hale Barns v Northwich; Malpas v Upton; Mobberley v Runcorn; Winnington Park v Oakmere.

FIXTURES & UMPIRES FOR SATURDAY, APRIL 27

ECB Premier League (12.30 p.m.)

CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL v HYDE
DIDSBURY v NANTWICH
GRAPPENHALL v ALDERLEY EDGE
MACCLESFIELD v BOWDON
NESTON v OXTON
TGFT v MARPLE

Ian Drury & Jim Whitehead
Graham Harris & John Lofthouse
Steve Dickers & Steve Walton
Alastair Davies & Dave Goulding
Dion Kelly & Ged Kinsey
Barrie Burns & Don Flanagan

First Division (1 p.m.)

BRAMHALL v BROOKLANDS
CHEADLE v SALE
CHRISTLETON v BREDBURY ST. MARK's
HEATON MERSEY v CHEADLE HULME
OULTON PARK v MIDDLEWICH
WIDNES v URMSTON

Glyn Roberts & Ken Rothwell
Ron Bedson & Gary Zimmer
Jon Hacking & Steve Kirkbright
Trevor Burnett & Garry Hambleton
Martin Howe & Chris Smith
Ankit Jain & Martin Roberts

Second Division (1 p.m.)

ALVANLEY v STOCKPORT GEORGIANS
CONGLETON v WARRINGTON
IRBY v TIMPERLEY
POYNTON v WEAVERHAM
STOCKPORT v DAVENHAM
TATTENHALL v BOLLINGTON

Allan Lewis & Tony Morris
John Lowe & Ken Simpson
Neville Abberley & Ray Prescott
Stan Davies & Wyn Harris
Howard Briggs & David Gane
Bob Cunningham & Clive Rice

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

ALDERLEY EDGE v GRAPPENHALL; HYDE v CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL; MIDDLEWICH v NESTON
NANTWICH v DIDSBURY; SALE v MACCLESFIELD; URMSTON v TOFT. No panel umpires are available

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

Kingfisher Beers Cup (National Club knock out) first round: 1 p.m.

GROUP 5 includes: Chorley v URMSTON.

GROUP 6 includes: Astley & Tyldesley v MARPLE; BOWDON v Sefton Park; Bootle v Bramhall; OXTON v Colwyn Bay; Wallasey v HYDE; Roe Green v GRAPPENHALL.

GROUP 7 includes: Shrewsbury v CHESTER; Stone v NANTWICH; Moddershall or Whitchurch v NESTON; ALDERLEY EDGE v Dunstall.

Cheshire Cup first round (1.30 p.m.)

CONGLETON v Wilmslow Wayfarers; STOCKPORT v Hawk Green; Ashley v Hale Barns; Runcorn v IRBY; Birkenhead St. Mary's v Sandbach; WEAVERHAM v Malpas.

Mike Denness RIP

ONE of the nicest men to have captained England is the description many who knew him gave to Mike Denness, whose death was announced, aged 72, on Friday, April 19.

M & WTB have special reason to remember the only England captain to have been born in Scotland: "Mike Denness was the personality leading a tour we made to watch the ICC World Cup in Kenya in 2000 when WTB had the misfortune to fall and break her ankle in the hotel on the last day. Mike Denness took the time to ring through to Nairobi, Heathrow and Manchester airports to arrange a wheelchair to see her through the awkward parts of a long air journey home and later sent her flowers. We reciprocated and kept in touch with him and his ICC refereeing career, which had its ups and downs. He was a fine person".