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**CHESHIRE COUNTY
CRICKET LEAGUE**



2012 season: August 27 Newsletter

Can Dabbers complete hat-trick of titles?

THEIR comprehensive eight wickets victory over leaders Macclesfield at Whitehouse lane on Saturday opens up the possibility of Nantwich completing a hat-trick of **ECB Premier League** titles, a feat previously achieved by Bowdon (2002-3-4) and Oulton Park (2005-6-7).

Macclesfield's advantage has been cut to nine points over Nantwich whose final three games are against relegation-strugglers Widnes, Urmston and Toft, while the Silkmen have tougher assignments versus Oxton, Chester Boughton Hall and Neston.

Macc were undone by superb swing bowling by Jimmy Warrington, whose personal best 8-53 made him the first premierships bowler to top 50 wickets. They were bowled out for 99 in 43 overs after an early rain stoppage, the only player to show enough technical ability to blunt Warrington being, appropriately the league's leading batsman Khalid Sawas, with a gritty 45 out of 84-6 in 38 overs. Left arm spinner Ollie Griffiths gave good support with 2-11 off 13 tight overs.

The wicket remained lively and Macc pacemen Ian Tate (2-41) and Jack Ward both suffered from dropped catches as Louis Bentley, 50 and Jonny Kettle, 39 not out hurried their side to victory inside 20 covers to complete a 25 – 0 points victory.

Saturday was yet another wet day and only two other games were played to a finish, one being at Filkins Lane where Chester Boughton Hall beat Neston by seven wickets to stay fifth, with a decent chance of rising higher. They bowled Neston out for 149, David Hurst 37, Mark Rowland 4-52. CBH replied with 153-3 with a forceful unbeaten 63 from Lee Dixon and 55 from his Cheshire colleague Warren Goodwin.

Toft 26 points adrift

At the foot of the table, Toft lost their fourth successive game and are now 26 points adrift of safety with Didsbury and Alderley Edge still to play apart from a last day clash with Nantwich.

Toft were bowled out for 127 in the 44th over (Shaun Mudalige 47) by a combination of spin (Andy Greasley 6-60 from 22 overs) and the pace of former England man Jimmy Ormond (3-38 off 18). Toft were more successful in the field and Marple struggled to win at 130-7 with time closing in, spinners Danny Hancock taking 3-53 off 28 overs and Nigel Muirhead 3-44 off 22. A solid innings of 44 from Mark Bennett helped Marple's cause.

Hyde were left to curse the wretched summer weather once more at Oxton where they had worked their way into a winning position after posting 228-6, with Scott Kirwin 96 and Danny Berry 75 enjoying a 98 stand for the third wicket. Oxton stood at 104-5 in reply at 30 overs when rain intervened, skipper Graham Cashin top scoring with an unbeaten 37. Hyde at least took 12 points from this game and lie fourth to Oxton's third with just one point between them.

There were only 15 overs bowled in the Didsbury v Urmston game before rain submerged the ground, the home side reaching 45-2 on a day when both urgently needed a full game and the possibility of 25 points to get out of danger.

Widnes were in the same situation at Alderley Edge where they were 58-3 after 16 overs when the heavens opened, Jason Whittker having taken 3-25.

Key games next Saturday: Hyde v Chester; Macclesfield v Oxton; Toft v Didsbury; Widnes v Nantwich

Weaverham, Davenham promoted : Malpas down

THE grounds of leading Meller Braggins Cheshire League clubs Weaverham and Davenham have both been passed suitable for promotion by an inspection team and will take their places in the County League Second Division in 2013.

Malpas' failure to win at Warrington on Saturday means they will be relegated to the MBCCL after two seasons' stay.

Full stories on inside pages.

Bowdon are up

FIRST Division leaders Bowdon became the first club to gain 2012 promotion when they recorded their 13th win of the season, by three wickets at home to Christleton .

They are not necessarily returning to the premiership after two seasons as champions, however, as Grappenhall remain in the reckoning and the clubs meet in a key game at Broad lane next Saturday.

Christleton were bowled out for 122 at South Downs road, Ifiti Naseer 50, Gareth Edwards 4-45, Simon Marshall 3-29. Bowdon struggled in reply and were indebted to a doughty 41 from Aussie Glen Parker for their narrow victory achieved at 123-7. Naseer (5-62) also shone with the ball.

Grappenhall, meanwhile, mustered only seven points from an abandoned game at Sale and lie 45 points behind the leaders with three games remaining. Sale were 80-4 (Willem Lubbe 51 not out, Jason Smith 3-37) when an early finish was called.

Moore needs 12 runs for 1,000

Oulton Park stay third after taking 12 points from a rain-spoiled match against Bredbury St. Mark's at Little Budworth. Rick Moore scored 127, his fourth century of the season and now needs only 12 runs to become the first batsman in the league to reach 1,000. Oulton closed on 299-6, Nick James 84, Chris Wood 3-63 and Bredbury reached 172-6 from 44 overs, Paul Wood 60, Darren Carr 44, Craig Williamson 3-48.

Irby scored a highly significant third win of the season, by four wickets at home to Brooklands, which could keep them up. Robbie Houghton's 6-43 helped to bowl Brooklands out for 166, John Birchall 68. Irby replied with 167-6, skipper Greg Shillinglaw contributing a key 59 and Alex Hughes 30, while A.J. Hart took 5-74.

Badly needing points to move up-table, Bollington were able to bowl only 12 overs at Bramhall (29-0) before the rain arrived.

The scene was the same at Grove Park where Cheadle Hulme were 57-2, Adam Wilde 23 not out, Rashid Amin 2-16, from 16 overs at the early close.

The postponed fixture between bottom clubs Heaton Mersey and Bollington will be staged at the Heatons next Sunday.

Warrington foiled as Malpas fail

WARRINGTON would almost certainly have gone top of the **Second Division** for the first time had the weather enabled them to complete their game against Malpas at Walton Lea

Malpas scored 149, Kyle Adams taking 7-72 and now has 77 wickets, needing seven more to beat the divisional record of 83 set up by Marple's Andy Greasley in 2010. Warrington were on 127-3 from 20 overs, Mal Agar 58 when the players were forced off the field, needing just 19 more runs for the 25 points which would have lifted them above Cheadle and Middlewich, whose games they knew had already been abandoned.

For Malpas, however, this is the end of the road and with only 100 points and three games left they must now finish in one of the two bottom spots.

Alvanley set for drop

Meller Braggins League champions in 2011, Alvanley look likely to accompany Malpas in the drop after just one season. They suffered their 12th defeat, by 85 runs at home to Poynton, who totalled 172, Paul Gould 78, Chris Charles 5-43, Dave Shewring 4-38. Charles' unbeaten 37 was the only bright spot in Alvanley's disappointing reply of 86 all out, Dave Williams 3-27. Their last chance of salvation could come on Saturday when they host Heaton Mersey.

Leaders Cheadle were rained off at home to Stockport Georgians after reaching 55-4, Paul Sperring 26 not out

Likewise, Middlewich were halted at Stockport after the home side had reached 69-3, R. Barber 40, Gav Tomlinson 3-21.

Timperley moved up-table with a sound five wickets win at Congleton, whom they dismissed for 98 thanks to Chris Page taking 5-31.

Tattenhall had the better of a near full game against Upton at The Flacca, batting first to total 198-4, Kiwi skipper Tom Hyslop enjoying another good innings of 95 not out off 76 balls and Rob Mulvihill 40, while Gary Dixon took 4-89. Upton were 132-8 off 48 overs when the game was abandoned, Jan Van Heerden 59, Darren, Mel Dobson 3-38.

All Saturday's scorelines

ECB PREMIER LEAGUE

ALDERLEY EDGE (won toss) v WIDNES

Widnes 58-3 (16 overs: J Whittaker 3-25); Widnes did not bat.

Match abandoned: 7 pts. each.

CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL (toss) v NESTON

Neston 149 (50 overs: D Hurst 37, M. Rowland 4-52);

Chester 153-3 (- overs: L. Dixon 63no, W. Goodwin 55). *This result was not telephoned.*

Chester Boughton Hall (25 pts.) beat Neston (1 pt.) by 7 wickets.

DIDSBURY v URMSTON (toss)

Didsbury 45-2 (15 overs); Urmston did not bat. *This result was telephoned late.*

Match abandoned: 7 pts. each

NANTWICH (toss) v MACCLESFIELD

Macclesfield 99 (43 overs: K Sawas 45; J. Warrington 8-53).

Nantwich 102-2 (20 overs: L. Bentley 50, J. Kettle 39no).

Nantwich (25 pts.) beat Macclesfield (0pts.) by 8 wickets

OXTON (toss) v HYDE

Hyde 228-6 (55 overs: S. Kirwin 96, D. Berry 75);

Oxton 104-5 (30 overs: G Cashin 37no).

Match abandoned as draw: Hyde 12 pts., Oxton 7 pts.

TOFT v MARPLE (toss)

Toft 127 (44 overs: S Mudalige 47, A Carolan 35, A. Greasley 6-60, J. Ormond 3-38);

Marple 130-7 (57 overs: M Bennett 44, N. Muirhead 3-44, D. Hancock 3-53).

Marple (25 pts.) beat Toft (3 pts.) by 3 wickets.

FIRST DIVISION

BOLLINGTON (won toss) v BRAMHALL

Bramhall 29-0 (12 overs); Bollington did not bat.

Match abandoned: 7 pts. each.

BOWDON (toss) v CHRISTLETON

Christleton 122 (46 overs: I. Naseer 50, G Edwards 4-45, S. Marshall 3-19; S. Patel 3-45);

Bowdon 123-7 (- overs: G. Parker 41, I. Naseer 5-62).

Bowdon (25 pts.) beat Christleton (3 pts.) by 3 wickets.

CHEADLE HULME v HEATON MERSEY (toss)

Cheadle Hulme 57-2 (17 overs: A. Wilde 23no, R. Amin 2-16); Heaton Mersey did not bat.

Match abandoned: 7 pts. each.

IRBY (toss) v BROOKLANDS

Brooklands 166 (49 overs: J. Birchall 69, P Edwards 44, R. Houghton 6-43);

Irby 168-6 (- overs: G. Shillinglaw 59, A. Hughes 30, A.J. Hart 5-84).

Irby (25 pts.) beat Brooklands (6 pts.) by 4 wickets

OULTON PARK v BREDBURY ST. MARK'S (toss)

Oulton Park 299-6 (50 overs: R. Moore 127, N. James 84, B. Tomlinson 33, C. Wood 3-63);

Bredbury 172-6 (44 overs: P. Wood 60, D. Carr 47, C. Williamson 3-48).

Match drawn: Oulton Park 12 pts., Bredbury St. Mark's 6 pts.

SALE (toss) v GRAPPENHALL

Sale 80-4 (18 overs: W. Lubbe 51no, J Smith 3-37); Grappenhall did not bat.

Match abandoned: 7 pts. each.

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SECOND DIVISION

ALVANLEY (toss) v POYNTON

Poynton 172 (47 overs: P. Gould 788, D. Williams 34, C. Charles 5-43, D. Shewring 4-38);

Alvanley 86 (- overs: C. Charles 37no, D. Williams 3-27).

Poynton (25 pts.) beat Alvanley (4 pts.) by 86 runs

CHEADLE v STOCKPORT GEORGIANS (toss)

Cheadle 55-4 (19 overs: P. Sperring 26no, S Normanton 2-17, J. Leggett 2-28); Georgians did not bat. .

Match abandoned: 7 pts. each

CONGLETON v TIMPERLEY (toss)

Congleton 98 (- overs: C Page 5-31);

Timperley 99-5 (- overs). *This result was not telephoned.*

Timperley (25 pts.) beat Congleton (2 pts.) by 5 wickets.

STOCKPORT v MIDDLEWICH (toss)

Stockport 69-3 (22 overs: R. Barber 40, G. Tomlinson 3-21); iddlewich did not bat.

Match abandoned: 7 pts. each

TATTENHALL v UPTON (toss)

Tattenhall 198-5 (50 overs: T Hyslop 95no, R Mulvihill 40, G. Dixon 4-79);

Upton 132-8 (48 overs: J. Van Heerden 59, D. Warburton 38, M Dobson 3-38).

Match abandoned as a draw: Tattenhall 11 pts., Upton 7 pts.

WARRINGTON (toss) v MALPAS

Malpas 145 (49 overs: K Adams 7-72);

Warrington 127-3 (20 overs: M. Agar 58, R. Heaney 43).

Match abandoned: 7 pts. each.

PICK OF WEEK

Premier Division. Batting: Scott Kirwin (Hyde) 96 v Oxton., Bowling: Jimmy Warrington (Nantwich) 8-53 v Macclesfield.

First Division. Batting: Rick Moore (Oulton Park) 127 v Bredbury St. Mark's. Bowling: Robbie Houghton (Irby) 6-43 v Brooklands.

Second Division. Batting: oTom Hyslop (Tattenhall) 95no v Upton. Bowling: oKyle Adams (Warrington) 7-72 v Malpas.

oo

Leading stats to August 18 (o = overseas player)

PREMIER LEAGUE (top five batsmen): K..Sawas (Macclesfield) 869 runs; D. Berry (Hyde) 645; oA. McGuinness (Marple) 636; L. Vincent (Oxton) 589; oJ. Hancock (Toft) 583.

Top five bowlers: J. Warrington (Nantwich) and A. Birley (Oxton) both 43 wickets; J. Whittaker (Alderley Edge) 42; A. Syddall (Urmston) 41; N Anderson (Didsbury) and oM. Nalesnyik (Widnes) both 40.

Wicket-keepers: P Ashling (Toft) 13 c & 10 st; J. Melrose (Macclesfield) 21c & 2 st; A. Worrall (Alderley Edge) 17 c & 6 st = all 23 victims.

FIRST DIVISION batting: R. Moore (Oulton Park) 862 runs; oW. Lubbe (Sale) 655; I. De Silva (Christleton) 547; S. Marshall (Bowdon) 541; oG. Psrker (Bowdon) 518.

Bowling: R. Halkon (Sale) 43 wickets; oV. Sood (Christleton) 41; G Emmett (Oulton Park) 40; S. Wilkinson (Bramhall) 39; A.J. Hart (Brooklands) 37.

Wicket-keeper: R. Wood (Brooklands) 14 c & 6 st = 20 victims.

SECOND DIVISION batting: oJ.Bailey (Congleton) 483 runs; oM. Macquet (Timperley) 466; oT. Hyslop (Tattenhall) 462; J. Cornford (Middlewich) 458; R. Farrar (Warrington) 443. .

Bowling: oK. Adams (Warrington) 70 wickets; P. Sperring (Cheadle) and G. Tomlinson (Middlewich both 38; I. Grindley (Timperley) 37; T. Facer (Stockport) 35.

Wicket-keeper: Mike Rudd (Warrington) 18c.

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Tables after 19 games

<u>ECB Premier</u>	P	W (25)	D (2)	A/C (7)	L	BAT	BOWL	TOTAL
MACCLESFIELD	19	9	1	3	6	16	14	278
NANTWICH	19	8	3	4	4	17	18	269
OXTON	19	7	2	5	5	27	17	258
HYDE	19	6	4	4	5	51	20	257
CHESTER BO. HALL	19	8	4	0	7	20	24	252
MARPLE	19	6	6	5	2	30	17	244
ALDERLEY EDGE	19	5	5	4	5	32	29	244
NESTON	19	6	3	3	7	22	21	220
DIDSBURY	19	5	2	5	7	25	23	212
URMSTON	19	4	3	4	8	44	21	199
WIDNES	19	5	0	6	8	10	14	191
TOFT	19	4	5	1	9	18	38	173

<u>Division 1</u>	P	W (25)	T (18)	D (7)	C	L	BAT	BOWL	TOTAL
BOWDON	19	13	0	0	3	3	10	3	359 prom
GRAPPENHALL	19	10	0	1	4	4	22	12	314
OULTON PARK	19	6	0	6	2	5	53	27	256
SALE	19	7	0	3	6	3	13	13	249
BRAMHALL	19	7	1	2	4	5	8	13	246
CHRISTLETON	19	5	0	4	3	7	35	31	220
CHEADLE HULME	19	5	0	3	4	7	22	28	209
BREDBURY ST. MK.	19	3	0	7	3	6	64	33	207
BROOKLANDS	19	5	0	6	1	7	18	27	189
IRBY	19	3	0	3	3	10	46	31	179
*BOLLINGTON	18	2	0	5	6	5	28	19	149
*HEATON MERSEY	18	3	0	4	4	7	15	21	147

* The Heaton Mersey v Bollington fixture on August 18 which was postponed by mutual agreement, will be played on Sunday, September 2.

The Bredbury St. Mark's v Bramhall match on June 16 resulted in a level scores draw: Bredbury 11 pts. Bramhall 18 tie pts.

<u>Division 2</u>	P	W (25)	D (2)	C (7)	L	BAT	BOWL	TOTAL
CHEADLE	19	11	2	5	1	4	8	326
MIDDLEWICH	19	10	6	2	1	13	25	314
WARRINGTON	19	10	2	4	3	14	14	310
POYNTON	19	8	4	4	3	24	20	280
CONGLETON	19	6	3	4	6	26	20	230
STOCKPORT	19	5	8	2	4	35	31	221
TIMPERLEY	19	5	2	3	9	25	26	201
TATTENHALL	19	5	4	3	7	16	19	189
STOCKPORT GEO.	19	4	5	5	5	16	26	187
UPTON	19	4	3	4	8	18	26	178
ALVANLEY	19	3	3	1	12	23	40	151
MALPAS	19	1	3	2	13	31	24	100 relegated

Book that dinner date

ALL clubs are reminded of the date of the League's 38th annual presentation dinner, which is to be held at Mere Golf & Country Club on Friday, October 5th (7 for 7.30 p.m.). A poster is being circulated which clubs are urged to display on their notice boards.

Guest speaker is Graham Poll, who will no doubt be talking about his experiences as a World Cup football referee and in the Premier League.

MC will again be John Gwynne, of Sky tv darts fame.

There is no increase in price which remains at £30 or £28 for under 18s.

Clubs will be asked nearer the date to give exact numbers to event organiser John Bygate, who appeals for a big turn out and for all full member to be represented.

O Shortly going out will be the Players Player of the Year ballot forms inviting all 1st XI cricketers to vote for the top player of their choice. Awards for all three divisions will be presented at the dinner, together with those for the Most Improved Club, the Performance of the Month prize for August & September, the Young Player of the Year and the Best New Umpire.

League format in 2013

ALL full member clubs have been circulated asking for their views on the points format which has been in operation this season. They will be asked:

1. What would be their preferred format for league games in 2013 and given a number of options to tick;
2. If the decision is to stay with the 2012 format, which of a number of listed changes would they support;
3. If the decision is made to revert to the 2011 format, which of a number of listed modifications would the club support.

The replies will be collated and considered at the September meeting of the Cricket Committee with a detailed recommendation framed to put before the November Management Committee.

O MATCH REGULATION 28 has come into effect. This states that no player may make his maiden 1st and 2nd XI appearance of the season for his club during the last five Saturdays unless he has already played in a game under the auspices of the League, including an Over 40s fixture (parent club only). Players need special permission to do this. The Cricket Committee have ruled that no transfers will be permitted between clubs in the league unless to play 3rd XI cricket.

Long-serving member and coach Chris Buckley (Macclesfield) has been given approval to play for Macclesfield for the remainder of the season.

O CLUBS who need further supplies of cricket balls should contact League Treasurer Andy Woods. Tel. 01244 400 219 (work mobile) or by e-mail on andrew@hargreaveswoods.co.uk

O ANY club having difficulty leaving their Saturday evening results on the dedicated phonenumber 01606 888 745 are urged to ring 01606 88 3715 as an alternative. There have been transmission problems

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

Vincent is stand-in pro

PERMISSION has been granted for Oxtan batsman Lou Vincent to act as stand-in professional for Kendal in the Northern League Cup final on Sunday, September 2. He replaces fellow Kiwi international James How who has returned home to attend the birth of his child.

O URMSTON and Cheshire left arm paceman Adam Syddall played for the Minor Counties in their annual representative match against MCC at Lord's last Thursday. Syddall took three wickets, but MCC won.

O RUNCORN have appointed a new secretary to succeed Mike Best, who died recently. He is Phil Hargreaves, 85, Langdale Road, Runcorn WA7 5 PT. Tel. 07712 015 985 (m). E-mail: phil.hargreaves@hotmail.co.uk

O ENGLAND Disabilities XI play Cheshire League club Winnington Park at the Rec. the same evening, Tuesday, August 28, in a T20 challenge match (5.30 p.m.).

Rain hits Cheshire's last game

RAIN caused Cheshire's final **Minor Counties championship** match against Herefordshire at Chester from Sunday – Tuesday last week to be abandoned at lunch on Day 3.

After a shortened first day, Cheshire went on to record their highest-ever score, reaching 476-8 before declaring at the statutory 90 overs mark. Macclesfield's prolific Khalid Sawas filled his boots against a modest attack with a sparkling 164 off 140 balls including 24 fours and four sixes. He was well assisted by Jonny Kettle, 70, Lee Dixon, 47, James Duffy, 40 and Danny Berry, 35.

Hereford were 140-4 by the end of the second day and when rain ended play on Tuesday, they had reached 298-9 off 83 overs, Danny Woods taking 6-71, return which meant he took exactly 50 per cent of the opposition wickets to fall in all five games.

Cheshire finished seventh in the Western division table with a record of one win, two draws, two defeats and one cancelled match.

Khalid Sawas has been invited for trials by Worcestershire during the first week in September.

Cornwall won the Western division title for the first time and will host East winners Buckinghamshire at Truro in the play-off from Sunday – Wednesday, September 2 – 5.

The fund-raising Golf Day which Cheshire planned to hold on Friday, September 28 at the Heyrose Club, Knutsford, has been cancelled due to lack of support.

DEVELOPMENT XI WIN

CHESHIRE Development XI concluded their programme with an impressive six wickets win against Leicestershire Academy at Toft on Friday. Their record was played 5; won 2; drawn 2; abandoned 1. with a further two games cancelled.

Leicestershire, who included promising wicket-keeper Tom Moores, 15 year old son of Lancashire coach Peter Moores, were bowled out for 135, Ravi Ghum 58., Jack Williams 3-23, Ben Davis 2-11, Nick Reid 2-16. Cheshire coasted home at 138-4, Nick Anderson 48 not out, Ollie Law 34.

Manager Matthew Sharp says the Board and County Club are considering a tournament involving Staffordshire, Shropshire and possibly a fourth county, next season to give their young players more competitive experience.

August 18 pitch & outfield marks

Premier League

Hyde v Nantwich. Pitch – 4-4-3-4 = 15; Outfield – 4-5-4-5 = 18.

Macclesfield v Alderley Edge: 4-4-5-5 = 17; 5-5-5-3 = 18.

Marple v Chester: 3-4-4-3 = 14; 4-4-4-56 = 17.

Neston v Oxtun: 5-4-5-4 = 18; 5-5-5-5 = 20.

Urmston v Toft: 4-4-4-3 = 15; 5-5-5-5 = 20. *Result sheet was received late.*

Widnes v Didsbury 4-4-4-3 = 15; 4-5-5-5 = 19. *Widnes had no scorer in first innings.*

First Division

Bramhall v Oulton Park: 5-5-4-4 = 18; 5-4—5-5 = 19

Bredbury v Irby: 4-4-4-3 = 15; 5-4-5-5 = 19. *Result sheet received late. Irby had no scorer.*

Brooklands v Bowdon: 5-4-4-4 = 17; 5-5-4-5 = 19.

Christleton v Sale: 5-4-5-4 = 18; 5-5-5-5 = 20. *Sale had no scorer.*

Grappenhall v Cheadle Hulme: 5-4-5-4 = 18; 5-5-5-5 = 20.

Second Division

Malpas v Congleton: 4-4-4-4 = 16; 4-4-4-3 = 15;

Middlewich v Warrington: 5-4-5-4 = 18; 5-5-5-5 = 20.

Poynton v Stockport: 4-4-4-4 = 16; 4-5-5-5 = 19. *Poynton had no scorer.*

Stockport Georgians v Tattenhall: 5-5-5-4 = 19; 4-5-5-5 = 19.

Timperley v Cheadle: 4-4-3-4 = 15; 5-5-5-5 = 20.

Upton v Alvanley: 3-3-4-4 = 14; 4-3-3-5 = 15.

All captains' reports from 1st XI games were submitted to co ordinator Ken Spilsbury. A 2nd XI report is missing from Chester Boughton Hall.

RedInsure changes mooted

A SERIES of proposals for changes to the **RedInsure T20** next season have been tabled.

Most involve the formation of qualifying groups which would entail four or more matches for all 36 clubs being played between mid-May and early July, scrapping the Plate

RedInsure Finals Day, possibly involving only the four semi-finalists, is likely to be played one or two weeks later, in early August, 2013.

New clubs get the nod

AFTER ruling Davenham's square at Butcher's Stile not up to standard in August, 2011, the League Grounds Inspection committee gave it a clean bill of health when they made a follow-up visit on Wednesday last week.

The group, led by Ground chairman John Bygate, also involved Cheshire Groundsman's Association chairman Nick James and county pitch advisor Paul Agar, found the square showed a marked improvement on a year ago following a programme of work set out by Paul Agar. A core sample taken from the square showed more root growth and groundsman Ian Bentley, father of Nantwich and Lancashire 2nd batsman Louis Bentley, was commended for his work.

The rest of the ground and pavilion facilities were also given the thumbs up by the committee after they had been shown round by club chairman Bob Floyd.

The inspection committee then moved on to nearby Weaverham to meet club captain Jon Lightfoot and other officials and were highly impressed by the quality of the playing area. They did, however, have some misgivings about the size of the dressing rooms and asked for the umpires room to be given a face lift before next season.

Weaverham were last members of the league in 2004 and lasted only one season, while Davenham have never before been members.

The two clubs have clinched the top places in the Meller Braggins Cheshire League and are due to meet at Davenham on Saturday in a game likely to decide the destination of the title, which Davenham last won in the first season, 1974. Weaverham have never finished in top place.

Says John Bygate: "We warmly welcome both clubs and I am sure they will be assets to the league".

Meller Braggins Cheshire League up-date

RESULTS of First Division games in the **Meller Braggins Cheshire League** on Saturday, August 25:

Hale Barns 182-9 dec. Oakmere 110-2 abandoned.
Mobberley 168; Ashton on Mersey 90-9 abandoned.
Northwich 106; Davenham 160-6 dec.
Runcorn 109-9; Ashley 225-5 dec. Drawn.
Weaverham 184-4 dec., Prestbury 117.
Winnington Park 122-5; Lindow 167-9 dec. Abandoned.,

PLACINGS after 19 games: 1. Weaverham 388 pts; 2. Davenham 376; 3. Hale Barns 245; 4. Prestbury 235; 5. Ashton on Mersey 225; 6. Oakmere 214; 7. Mobberley 209; 8. Northwich 205; 9. Winnington Park 204; 10. Runcorn 201; 11. Ashley 200; 12. Lindow 170.

Division 2 leaders: 1. Chester County Officers 370 pts.; 2. Kingsley 346; 3. Romiley 312.

FIXTURES in the First Division on Saturday, September 1 (1 p.m.):

Ashton on Mersey v Runcorn

Davenham v Weaverham

Lindow v Ashley

Oakmere v Northwich

Prestbury v Mobberley

Winnington Park v Lindow

The League stage their twin T20 cup finals at Winnington Park on Sunday, September 2.

2nd XI final: Davenham v Romiley at 12.30 p.m.

1st XI final: Weaverham v Langley or Runcorn at 3.30 p.m.

ON THE latest Fair Play table issued by the MBCCL shows Alderley Park leading with an average of 4.286 (maximum 5). Weaverham are 13th with 4.067 and Davenham 33rd with 3.714.

Bunbury top the Pitch table with 4.75 (maximum 5). Weaverham are ninth with a figure of 4 and Davenham 13th on 3.83.

Junior finals

THE final of the League's **John North Under 17 Cup** is to be played at Upton between Upton and Hyde on Sunday, September 9 (1 p.m.). In the semi-finals, Upton beat Oxtun and Hyde eliminated Neston.

To be played the same day are the **Under 12 final** between Bowdon and Neston at South Downs road and the **Under 14 final** between Cheadle Hulme and Cheadle at Grove Park (both 2 p.m.).

STOCKPORT ALL OUT 39 AS ...

Oulton Park win Shield

OULTON Park needed only 22 balls to knock off the runs needed to beat Stockport by 10 wickets and win the **Cheshire Shield** for the first time, at Little Budworth on Sunday.

The Second Division club provided feeble opposition, being bowled out for 39 in 25.2 overs, with part-time bowler Martyn East taking 6-19.

Oulton replied with 41-0 in 3.4 overs, Rick Moore contributing an unbeaten 34.

Martyn East was named man of the match and Danny Leech received the trophy as the winning skipper.

Holdings v CBH cup final

HOLDERS Hyde beat Elworth by 74 runs in a reduced overs, re-played **Cheshire Cup** semi-final at Werneth Low on Sunday.

After overnight and morning rain the game was reduced to 20 overs each innings, Hyde rattling up 172-6, with James Duffy scoring 47, Scott Kirwin 41 and John Ashley 33.

Elworth, who are in line for promotion to the North Staffs & South Cheshire League premier division in 2013, were bowled out for 98, Chris Tipper taking 3-29.

The final will feature Hyde v Chester Boughton Hall at Werneth Low on Sunday, September 2 starting at 12.30 p.m.

The umpires will be Derick van Rensberg and Steve Walton.

Over 40s Finals off

THE **OVER 40s section play-offs**, due to have been staged at Urmston on Bank Holiday Monday, was cancelled due to wet grounds and an extremely doom-laden forecast.

The event sponsored by TailorMade Group Pensions, will now be staged at Urmston on Sunday, September 16 (11.30 a.m.).

The draw remains: Neston v Urmston Tigers; Alsager Dabbers v Bollington Veterans.

MEETING DATE

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

Applications and resignations should be directed to organiser Mike Talbot-Butler before then if possible, with three vacancies to be filled. Among new proposals is a play-off between the winners and runners-up in each group on the ground of the top-placed club, with the aim of retaining competitive interest until the final week.

Over 60s switch grounds

CHESHIRE, the holders, are to meet Worcestershire in the last 16 play-off in the **Spitfire National Over 60s championship** on Tuesday this week (August 28).

The game has been switched from Grappenhall to Irby at short notice, starting at 1 pm.

O Lancashire beat Hampshire at Stanley Park, Blackpool on Sunday in the semi-final of the **50 Plus county championship**, when Geoff Wellsted was one of the umpires.

The other semi-final was between Derbyshire and Warwickshire.

Saturday, September 1: fixtures & umpires

ECB PREMIER LEAGUE (note 12 noon starts)

HYDE v CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL
MACCLESFIELD v OXTON
MARPLE v NESTON
TOFT v DIDSBURY
URMSTON v ALDERLEY EDGE
WIDNES v NANTWICH

Dion Kelly & Geoff Wellsted
John Lofthouse & David Moss
Paul Herring & Glyn Roberts
David van Rensburg & Chris Smith
Trevor Burnett & Don Flanagan
Graham Harris & Wyn Harris

DIVISION 1 (note 12.30 pm starts)

BOLLINGTON v CHEADLE HULME
BRAMHALL v BREDBURY ST. MARK'S
BROOKLANDS v OULTON PARK
CHRISTLETON v IRBY
GRAPPENHALL v BOWDON
HEATON MERSEY v SALE

David Stoter & Phil Prince
Neville Kent & Chris Moore
Howard Briggs & Ged Kinsey
Jon Hacking & Ian Wilson
Ankin Jain & Ian Greensmith
Stuart Anderson & Tony Morris

Sunday, September 2 (12.30 pm)

HEATON MERSEY v BOLLINGTON

Paul Herring & Steve Kirkbright

DIVISION 2 (12.30 p.m.)

MALPAS v TIMPERLEY
MIDDLEWICH v ALVANLEY
POYNTON v TATTENHALL
STOCKPORT GEORGIANS v CONGLETON
UPTON v CHEADLE
WARRINGTON v STOCKPORT

Bob Cunningham & Clive Rice
Barrie Burns & Brian Jones
Rick Davis & Dave Goulding
Neville Abberley & John Lowe
Allan Lewis & Steve Walton
Alistair Davies & Steve Duckers

2nd XI PREMIER DIVISION (12.30 pm)

ALDERLEY EDGE v URMSTON
CHEADLE v MACCLESFIELD
CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL v HYDE
DIDSBURY v TOFT
NANTWICH v GRAPPENHALL
NESTON v BRAMHALL

No panel umpire available & Garry Hambleton
Two club umpires
Ray Prescott & Ken Rothwell
No panel umpire available & Club umpire
Steve Kirkbright & Gary Zimmer
Two club umpires

Last word ...

A LITTLE-known, but true story about the late, lamented Neil Armstrong, Commander of Apollo 11 Lunar module, the first person to set foot on the moon on July 20, 1969.

His first words are well known: "That's one small step for Man; One giant leap for Mankind".

But just before he re-entered the Lander, he made the enigmatic remark: "Good luck, Mr. Gorsky".

Many people at NASA thought it referred to a rival Soviet cosmanaut, but checks established there were no Gorskys on either nation's programme. Over the years many folk questioned Neil as to what his remark meant, but he always smiled and said nothing.

On July 5, 1995 in Tampa Bay, Florida, however, while answering questions from a young journalist, Neil responded as Mr. Gorsky had by then died.

He revealed that in 1938, when he was a kid in a Midwest town, he was playing about when his baseball landed in next door's garden, belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Gorsky. As he leaned down to pick up the ball, he heard Mrs Gorsky bellow at her husband: "Sex! You want sex? You'll get sex when the kid next door walks on the moon".

