



Cheshire County Cricket League



2014 NEWSLETTER NO. 2: SATURDAY, APRIL 26

Four share Premiership lead

AFTER just two weeks of the new season, there are only four clubs with 100 per cent records in the ECB Premier League - in alphabetical order they are reigning champions Chester Boughton Hall, Grappenhall, Hyde and Toft.

After topping 300 in their opening game against Neston, Chester had to be content with a modest 176 at Bramhall, Jack Williams top-scoring with 46. Last season's Division 1 champions were then spun out for 100, Matt Begbie 39, Jack Williams completing a good day with 6-29 aided by teenager Harry Killoran 4-11.

Grappenhall had an outstanding result at Oxton where they bowled out their Wirral hosts for 59, Aussie all-rounder Josh McClelland taking 4-17 and Sam Guest 4-39. Grappenhall had earlier run up a useful 186, McClelland 69, Worcestershire's Shaaiq Choudhry claiming 5-54 off 24 overs and Gayan Fernando 3-61.

Hyde won by nine wickets at Neston where the Parkgate men turned in another disappointing performance. They were dismissed for 134 on a wicket which skipper David Hurst described as 'near perfect', Dave Manchett scored a fine 58 not out, while Jason Whittaker claimed 6-53 for his new club. Hyde responded with a confident 135-1, Danny Berry 64 not out, Khalid Sawas 49.

England's Rob Jones stars for Toft

Toft also reached 50 points with a 60 runs win at Urmston after posting a confident 220-9, England Under 19s star Rob Jones 66, James Drummond 51, Matt Parkinson 5-75. Urmston were bowled out for 150 (Calum Turner 46) by spinners Jimmy Lomas, 5-26 and Rob Jones, 3-38.

Alderley Edge also registered their second win, but lie behind the joint leaders after having three points deducted (together with Bramhall) for a slow over rate on the opening day. They won by four wickets at Nantwich after bowling out their hosts for 127, Rob Cook-Sievwright 38, Charlie Reid 4-35, Simon O'Brien 4-41. Alderley replied with 128-6 in 39 overs, Alan Day top-scoring with 33.

Marple recorded a surprisingly comfortable eight wickets home win over Bowdon after Gareth Edwards' side had posted a solid 181-7, Mark Phelan 69 and former Red Rose player Paddy McKeown 33. Opening the Marple batting, ex-Hyde wicket-keeper Mark Makin blasted a spectacular 92 off 81 balls in a reply of 182-2 from just 32 overs, aided by John Marshall 41 and James Morgan 40 not out.

As on the opening day, every match produced a positive result.

POINTS TO DATE:

**1 = CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL; GRAPPENHALL; HYDE; TOFT all 50;
5. ALDERLEY EDGE 47; 6. BOWDON 39; 7= BRAMHALL, MARPLE 26;
9. URMSTON 9; 10. NESTON 8; 11. OXTON 7; 12. NANTWICFH 4.**

Two out of two for Davenham

NEWLY-promoted to Division One, Davenham showed their opening day victory at Middlewich was no flash in the pan by beating star-studded neighbours Oulton Park by four wickets in a low-scoring game at Butcher's Stile. They are one of four teams to win both opening games.

Put in on a greenish wicket, Oulton were all at sea against the swing of Dean Jackson and the spin of Dan Hancock and only squeezed into three figures (104) thanks to Pat Roberts' gutsy unbeaten 45. Jackson ended with 5-25 and Hancock 3-29.

Davenham found the going hard, too, and needed a typical, fighting 29 not out from Ben Gough to edge home at 105-6.

Cheadle are another to maintain first day form with an eight wickets win at Christleton who needed 76 from new skipper Iroshan de Silva and 43 by Ben Patterson to post 170, Chris Moore 4-46. In form batsmen Greg Dixon and Dan Brown knocked off the runs with 12 overs to spare with unbeaten knocks of 72 not out and 60 respectively

Relegated Macclesfield kept up their good start with a five wickets home win over Cheadle Hulme, who posted 178-7, Lancashire Under 15 starlet Osman Butt scoring 59 on debut. Skipper Nick Ross hit 91 in Macc's reply of 180-5.

Didsbury are another club who aim to bounce back at the earliest opportunity, beating Middlewich by six wickets at Wilmslow road after restricting their visitors to 163, Nick Anderson 3-20, Simon Normanton 3-51. Josh Bean contributed an unbeaten 60 to Didsbury's response of 165-4.

Best innings of the season so far came from Widnes opener Danny Naughton with an unbeaten 122 out of 233-1 at home to Brooklands after Naughton and Cheshire Over 50s' Phil Catterall, 77, had put on 178 for the first wicket. Brooklands held out at 178-7, thanks to South African Kevin Renecke with an unbeaten 66, while Sean Moore took 4-45.

Sale ended 14 – 4 points ahead at the end of a tense, drawn derby game against Timperley at Dane road. after posting 172, Tyrone Lawrence 51. Timperley replied with 120-8, Damien Stringer 45 not out.

POINTS: 1 = CHEADLE, DAVENHAM, DIDSBURY, MACCLESFIELD 50; 5. CHEADLE HULME 33; 6. TIMPERLEY 31; 7. WIDNES 18; 8. SALE 14; 9. BROOKLANDS and MIDDLEWICH 11; 11. OULTON PARK 7; 12. CHRISTLETON 6.

Shepherd does it again

NORTHWICH seam bowler Simon Shepherd followed up his opening day return of 7-39 with an even better 8-29 as Northwich won another low scoring Second Division game, by 28 runs at Warrington

Northwich tallied 126, Les Evans 42, D. McIntosh 4-20, Kyle Adams 4-53, then bowled Warrington out for 98, Liam Heaphy 32.

Congleton's Aussie Mark Strech who looks set to boost his club's prospects this season, hitting an unbeaten 63 in a three wickets win at Irby, who were bowled out for 107. Congleton replied with 108-7, Greg Shillinglaw 3-27.

Weaverham also made it two wins with a four wickets success at Poynton, who were sent back for 116. Weaverham replied with 118-6, Kevin Waterhouse 41, England Disabled XI skipper Jimmy Williams taking 4-39.

Heaton Mersey improved on last week to beat Upton by three wickets. Upton 175-7, Mersey 180-7, M Khan 62 not out

Nineteen wickets fell for 124 runs at Bredbury, where St. Mark's lost to Alvanley: Bredbury 61, Chris Charles 4-14, Alvanley 63-9, John Usher 6-16.

Tattenhall outplayed Stockport at the Flacca, but had to be content with 13 – 4 draw points.

POINTS TO DATE: 1. ALVANLEY, CONGLETON, NORTHWICH, WEAVERHAM all 50; 5. TATTENHALL 38; 6. HEATON MERSEY AND STOCKPORT 29; 8. UPTON 11; 9. BREDBURY 8; 10. POYNTON AND IRBY 7; WARRINGTON 6.

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League pitch reports for Saturday, April 19

ECB PREMIER

Alderley Edge v Bramhall: Pitch 17; Outfield 20.

Bowdon v Urmston: 17-18

Chester Boughton Hall v Neston: 20 – 18;

Grappenhall v Marple: 18 – 20;

Hyde v Oxton 18-19

Toft v Nantwich 16 – 18.

FIRST DIVISION

Brooklands v Didsbury 16 – 13;

Cheadle v Sale: 17 – 18;

Cheadle Hulme v Christleton: 15 – 19;

Middlewich v Davenham, 18-20;

Oulton Park v Macclesfield 15-17;

Timperley v Widnes 16 – 20.

SECOND DIVISION

Alvanley v Poynton 15 – 19;

Congleton v Bredbury 17-20;

Northwich v Heaton Mersey 15-19;

Stockport v Irby: no result sheet received: £15 fine

Upton v Tattenhall 15 – 17;

Weaverham v Warrington 14 – 18.

O All umpires assessment marks were received in time by coordinator Ken Spilsbury

Saturday's ECB Premier League details

BRAMHALL (toss) v CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL

Chester 176 (50 overs: J. Williams 46no, A. West 3-52)

Bramhall 109 (34 overs: M. Begbie 39, M Hughes 38, J Williams 6-29, H Killoran 4-11).

Chester Boughton Hall won by 67 runs: 25 – 4 pts.

MARPLE v BOWDON (toss)

Bowdon 181-7 (55 overs: M. Phelan 59, P. McKeown 33)

Marple 182-2 (32 overs: M Makin 92, J Marshall 41, J. Morgan 40no).

Marple won by 8 wickets: 25 – 4 pts.

NANTWICH v ALDERLEY EDGE (toss)

Nantwich 127 (44 overs: R Cook-Sievwright 38, C Reid 4-25, S. O'Brien 4-41);

Alderley Edge 128-6 (39 overs: A Day 33).

Alderley Edge won by 4 wickets: 25 – 2 pts.

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Premier League continued ...

NESTON (toss) v HYDE

Neston 134 (38 overs: D Manchett 58no, J. Whittaker 6-53, M Hanna 3-78);

Hyde 135-1 (27 overs: D Berry 64no, K Sawas 49).

Hyde won by 9 wickets: 35 – 2 pts.

OXTON v GRAPPENHALL (toss)

Grappenhall 186 (55 overs: J McClelland 69, A Tetlow 35, S. Choudhry 5-54, G. Fernando 3-61);

Oxton 59 (32 overs: J Fennaqh 17, J McClelland 4-17, S. Guest 4-39).

Grappenhall won by 127 runs: 25 – 4 pts.

URMSTON (toss) v TOFT

Toft 220-9 (55 overs: R Jones 66, J Drummond 51, A. Green 51, M. Parkinson 5-75);

Urmston 150 (54.5 overs: C Turner 40, J. Lomas 5-26, R Jones 3-38).

Toft won by 70 runs: 25 – 5 pts.

First Division scores

CHRISTLETON (won toss) v CHEADLE

Christleton 180 (48 overs: I De Silva 76, B. Patterson 43, C. Moore 4-46);

Cheadle 181-2 (39 overs: G Dixon 72no, D Brown 60no).

Cheadle won by 8 wickets: 25 – 6 pts

DAVENHAM (toss) v OULTON PARK

Oulton Park 104 (50 overs: P. Roberts 45no, D Jackson 5-25, D. Hancock 3-29);

Davenham 105-6 (40 overs: B Gough 29no);

Davenham won by 4 wickets: 25 - 2 pts.

DIDSBURY (toss) v MIDDLEWICH

Middlewich 163 (49 overs: N Anderson 3-20, S. Normanton 3-51);

Didsbury 165-4 (43 overs: J Beal 60no)

Didsbury won by 6 wickets: 25 – 5 pts.

MACCLESFIELD (toss) CHEADLE HULME

Cheadle Hulme 178-7 (50 overs: O Butt 59, E. McCray 45, C. Beckley 32);

Macclesfield 180-5 (43 overs: N. Ross 91).

Macclesfield won by 5 wickets: 25 – 8 pts.

SALE v TIMPERLEY (toss)

Sale 172 (49 overs: T Lawrence 3 51, M Spells 42, D. Stringer 3-27, C Page 3-47);

Timperley 120-8 (51 covers: D. Stringer 43no, T Lawrence 3-32).

Match drawn: Sale 12 pts., Timperley 6 pts.

WIDNES (toss) v BROOKLANDS

Widnes 233-1 (50 overs: D Naughton 122no, P. Catterall 77, W. Ryan 30no)

Brooklands 180-7 (50 overs: K. Renecke 68no, S. Moore 4-45).

Match drawn: Widnes 14 pts., Brooklands 4 pts.

Division 2 scores

BREDBURY ST MARK'S v ALVANLEY (won toss)

Bredbury 61 (27 overs: C Charles 4-14);

Alvanley 63-9 (28 overs: C. Charles 25, J. Usher 6-16, C. Smith 3-30).

Alvanley won by 1 wicket: 25 – 4 pts.

HEATON MERSEY (toss) v UPTON

Upton 175-7 (50 overs: M. Ingram 45, R. Potter 33, S Hassan 3-70);

Heaton Mersey 180-7 (48.3 overs: M Khan 62no, I. Khan 48, G. Keenan 4-47);

Heaton Mersey won by 3 wickets: 25 – 9 pts.

IRBY (toss) v CONGLETON

Irby 107 (40 overs: M Newman 35, M Vick 34, J Copeland 3-17);

Congleton 108-7 (29 overs: M Strech 63no, G. Shillinglaw 3-27, K. Pedie 3-42).

Congleton won by 3 wickets: 25 - 3 pts.

POYNTON v WEAVERHAM (toss)

Poynton 116 (49 overs: R McMillan 3-24, K Waterhouse 3-28, W Cornwall 3-28);

Weaverham 117-6 (35 overs: K. Waterhouse 41, S. Woods 36, J. Williams 4-39).

Weaverham won by 4 wickets: 25 – 4 pts.

TATTENHALL v STOCKPORT (toss)

Tattenhall 191-3 (50 overs: D. Power 64);

Stockport 143-9 (50 overs).

Match drawn: Tattenhall 13 pts., Stockport 4 pts.

WARRINGTON v NORTHWICH (toss)

Northwich 126 (50 overs: L. Evans 42, B. McIntosh 4-20, K. Adams 4-53);

Warrington 98 (38 overs: L. Heaphy 32, S. Shepherd 8-29).

Northwich won by 28 runs: 25 – 4 pts.

PICK of WEEK

Premier League batting: Mark Makin (Marple) 92 v Bowdon

Bowling: Jack Williams (CBH) 6-29 v Bramhall

First Division batting: Danny Naughton (Widnes) 122no v Brooklands

Bowling: Dean Jackson (Davenham) 5-25 v Oulton Park

Second Division batting: oMark Strech (Congleton) 63no v Irby

Bowling: Simon Shepherd (Northwich) 8-29 v Warrington.

Cheshire rained off at at Jesmond

CESHIRE'S opening Unicorns Knock out group game against Northumberland at Jesmond on Sunday was abandoned due to rain with both teams taking one point.

Cheshire must now prepare to take full points from their three remaining group games, against Cumberland at Neston on Sunday, say 11; Shropshire at Oswestry on Sunday, May 18 and Lincolnshire at Bramhall on Sunday, May 25.

ADAM SYDDALL @ LORD'S

Adam Syddall is to captain an MCC XI against MCC Young Cricketers at Lord's on Wednesday, May 7, a match in which Alistair Davies will umpire.

Development XI lose

Cheshire Development XI lost by 10 wickets in a friendly match against Lancashire 2nd at Emirates Old Trafford on Friday, a game ended by rain after an agreement to bat for 27 overs each

Cheshire scored 70-6 in their 27 overs, Gareth Cross 18, Jordan Clark 3-18.

Lancashire passed that score and went on to total 166-0 from 19 overs when RSP, Karl Brown 78 not out, Luke Reece 75 not out;

Cheshire team: Rick Moore captain, Gareth Cross, Adam Shaw, Khalid Sawas, Lee Dixon, Alan Money, Andy Clarke, Nick Anderson, Pat Roberts, Harry Killoran, Adam Syddall.

Cheshire Cup starts

FIRST round games in the Cheshire Cup are to be played on Sunday, May 4 (1.30 p.m.). two with changed venues:

Widnes v Appleton; Upton v Warrington; Port Sunlight v Parkfield Liscard; Davenham v Stockport Trinity; Stockport v Ashton on Mersey; Bredbury St. Mark's v Macclesfield; Sandbach v Romiley; Disley v Elworth; Bollington v Hawk Green; Rode Park & Lawton v Wilmslow Wayfarers; Offerton v Weaverham; Brooklands v Ashley; Didsbury v Cheadle; Timperley v Northwich.

Second round games – when the ECB Premier League clubs enter – are scheduled for Sunday, May 23.

The organiser, to whom all results should be sent, is Barrie Burns.

TACS Cheshire League latest

RESULTS of First Division games in the TACS Partnership Cheshire League on Saturday, April 26:

Ashton on Mersey 131-2 Romiley 127; Malpas 113-2 Hale Barns 111; Mobberley 144 Stockport Georgians 184; Oakmere 137-8 Lindow 157; Prestbury 239-6 Chester County Officers 99; Runcorn 115 Bollington 116-3.

In a Second Division game, newcomers Haslington scored 108, then dismissed Wirral for three runs, an all-time record low score in the Cheshire Pyramid. When the last Wirral batsmen went to the wicket the total stood at no runs for nine wickets.

Division 1 points totals after two games: 1. Stockport Georgians 50; 2. Ashton on Mersey 45; 3. Malpas 45; 4. Mobberley 33; 5. Prestbury 30; 6. Romiley 30; 7. Bollington 28; 8. CCO 23; 9. Oakmere 18; 10. Runcorn 17; 11. Lindow 15; 12. Hale Barns 8.

Division 1 fixtures on Saturday, May 3 (1.30 p.m.): Ashton on Mersey v Prestbury; Bollington v Mobberley; Hale Barns v Oakmere; Lindow v Chester County Officers; Romiley v Runcorn; Stockport Georgians v Malpas.

Vets reorganise

CHESHIRE Over 50s and 60s have come closer together under the leadership of one chairman, Gary Hambleton following an initiative taken by former captain and current 50s president Norman Halsall at a recent meeting.

Norman commented: "The 50s was formed 25 years ago and it seemed to me that with the launch of the 60s a few seasons back the two groups now needed to combine their resources, ideas and talent more effectively. They will still operate with separate captains and selection methods, with Paul Freedman and Ken Crofton serving as the respective team secretaries. At the end of the season we shall have a celebration dinner to mark our achievements. It will then be time for me to step down".

The 60s launch their National championship season on Tuesday this week against Lancashire at Chester on (1.30 p.m.). The 50s have a friendly away to Shropshire on Wednesday, May 7.

10 Years Ago ...

From League Newsletter of May 1, 2004

OXTON continued their bright start with a third win in eight days. After beating Didsbury in the ECB Premier League, they knocked Whitchurch out of the Cockspur Cup, then bettered Widnes by four wickets at Townfield Lane to top the season's first table, with Matthew Doggart and Neil Cross their key men. Aged 59, Alan Hitchmough scored 59 for Widnes

A RETURN of 7-30 by Robin Fisher, back after a stint at Bootle, was not enough to earn Chester Boughton Hall victory against Poynton at Fikins Lane. With 6-20, Tim Reynolds proved the visitors' match-winner

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WARRINGTON did well to win by 92 runs in the First Division at Alsager thanks to a 6-41 return from seamer Neil Thompson.

AN innings of 64 by Nick O'Connell helped promoted Christleton win at Brooklands

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TAKING advantage of the League's decision to go 'open', Bollington fielded Northants 6 ft. 3 ins. Aussie all-rounder Jeff Cook against Stockport Georgians in Division Two. Bolly still lost by 59 runs

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CHESHIRE were to be led by Bramhall's Andy Hall for their eagerly-awaited Cheltenham & Gloucester Trophy game against Shane Warne's Hampshire at Alderley Edge for which a huge crowd was expected. Cheshire raised eyebrows by bringing in Littleborough professional Clinton Perren.

Over 40s fixtures begin

OPENING fixtures in the Over 40s section are on Wednesday, May 7 (unless stated).

West group: Neston v Tattenhall Wreckers; Oxton v Caldy; Upton v Chester Bo. Hall (Tuesday, May 6); Warrington v Irby.

Central Group: Bowdon Vale Vikings v Bowdon; Davenham v Alsager Dabbers; Mobberley v Ashley; Toft v Grappenhall.

NE Group: Brooklands v Ashton on Mersey; Cheadle v Alderley Edge Vikings; Cheadle Hulme v Sale Silverbacks; Urmston Tigers v Timperley.

SE Group: Bramhall v Bollington Vets; Bredbury Saints v Offerton; Macclesfield v Woodley; Poynton Legends v Marple. .

Tablet / website problems probed

EARLY problems being experienced with the newly-distributed Tablets and in following new website requirements were discussed by the League Cricket Committee at their April meeting.

Members felt the Tablets had been generally well received, although some clubs had experienced difficulty, either with batteries, mains link-up or sheer inexperience. It is hoped to establish training programmes in the West and East of the county before the end of May and that all clubs will be up and running with the new system before the season's second half began.

Anyone who wants advice should contact Jon O'Donnell on 079957 431 210 (m) or by e-mail on j.od@sky.com or David Vallance on 0161 905 1311 (h); 07889 495 076 (m) and by r-mail on d_m_vallance@yahoo.co.uk

The new requirement to file 1st XI line scores by 10 p.m on match days been achieved by all but one club, but others were having difficulty posting their full set out scores and – for Premier League – registering players. All website contacts should be addressed to webmaster Darren Sutcliffe on 01606 330 165 (home); 07764 486 767 (m) or by e-mail on dsooty54@btinternet.com

Chairman David Humpage undertook to contact the ECB at Lord's to ask for more clarity over access to new play-cricket.com websites.

Competition Secretary Mike Talbot-Butler said three clubs had failed to phone in their results and reminded members that his dedicated results phone number was 01606 888 745. All but one club had submitted their result sheets and ground marks by that day (Wednesday). The quality of the phone-in had been poor and he had asked clubs for an improvement.

Two clubs lose points

Three points are to be deducted from the playing records of Alderley Edge and Bramhall for a late finish in their opening ECB Premier League game on Saturday, April 19. The match ended at 7.57 p.m.

It was reported by Treasurer Matt Beckley that three full members had not yet paid for their cricket balls. A number of associates had also not done so.

Disciplinary Committee chairman Ian Greensmith said the make up of the committee in 2014 would be Ian Brown, Gareth Edwards, Brian Kingham, Chris Smith and himself.

It was agreed that in the RedInsure T20 competition all leg side deliveries should be called Wide by umpires and that off-side wides will remain at the discretion of the umpire.

Assistant secretary Tony Morris had rejected an application for Lancashire's Zimbabwe-based Kolpak player Kyle Jervis to play for Alderley Edge as he was considered to be an overseas players under league rules. Alderley Edge already have an overseas player.

Umpires marks coordinator Ken Spilsbury is now available on e-mail. He warns that he does not intend to send out reminders to clubs who sare late in registering marks this season.

NIGEL PEEL, 46, PLAYS AGAIN

FORMER Bowdon and Cheshire fast bowler Nigel Peel has come out of retirement and will play for Whittle and Clayton in the Palace Shield this season.

Nigel, now 46, tells *Newsletter*: "I last played for Cheshire 18 years ago and carried at Bowdon until 1998 and spent a lot of time out of the game after moving to live at Charnock Richard. . I came over for a county match last season and got bitten by the bug. I can't wait to get going again – and I shan't be bowling spin!"

***LEAGUE FIXTURES & UMPIRES:
SATURDAY, MAY 3***

ECB Premier League (12.30 p.m.)

ALDERLEY EDGE v URMSTON
BOWDON v OXTON
GRAPPENHALL v NESTON
HYDE v CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL
NANTWICH v BRAMHALL
TOFT v MARPLE

Alistair Davies & Mark Turner
Martin Roberts & Geoff Wellsted
Trevor Burnett & Graham Harris
Ian Greensmith & Don Flanagan
Barrie Burns & Chris Smith
Ged Kinsey & Glyn Roberts

First Division (1 p.m.)

BROOKLANDS v SALE
CHEADLE v MACCLESFIELD
CHEADLE HULME v DAVENHAM
OULTON PARK v MIDDLEWICH
TIMPERLEY v CHRISTLETON
WIDNES v DIDSBURY

Clive Rice & Simon Smith
Brian Jones & Dion Kelly
Neville Abberley & David Goulding
Ankit Jain & Allan Lewis
Howard Briggs & Ray Prescott
Neville Kent & Tony Morris

Second Division (1 p.m.)

ALVANLEY v IRBY
CONGLETON v TATTENHALL
NORTHWICH v POYNTON
STOCKPORT v UPTON
WARRINGTON v HEATON MERSEY
WEAVERHAM v BREDBURY ST. MARK'S

Darrin Clark & Steve Duckers
John Lowe & Gary Zimmer
Brian Boys & Jon Hacking
Alan Hay & Phil Prince
Bob Cunningham & David Stoter
Graham Pugh & Ken Simpson

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

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

Peter Hanaby & club umpire
Nigel Simms & panel umpire not available
*Peter Davies & Wyn Harris
David Tate & panel umpire not available
Club umpire & Steve Walton
Tom Spencer & Ken Rothwell

* Peter Davies' correct e-mail: p.davies37@btinternet.com

RedInsure T20

GROUP 1,3,5 and 7 games in the RedInsure T20 start during the week beginning Monday, May 12.

Now who is that with Gary Dixon ?

PICTURED after his recent successful run the London Marathon is Upton and Cheshire 50s' all-rounder Garry Dixon.

He is the one on the right, with his arm around 'old friend' former Prime Minister Sir John Major, who was waiting at the finishing post for his daughter to complete the gruelling 26 miles course.

Says Gary: "I'm keeping up my charity runs as long as fitness allows and did Manchester the week before. It's amazing who you come across on occasions like this!"



LATE NEWS: National Knock out results on Sunday, April 27

GROUP 5: **Alderley Edge** lost to Farnworth by 166 runs; **Bramhall** lost at Farnworth Social Circle by 111 runs; **Marple** lost at Leigh by 8 wickets; **Urmston** won at Atherton by 139 runs; **Bowdon** beat Astley & Tyldesley by 4 wickets; **Hyde** won at Tonge by 6 wickets.

GROUP 6: **Neston** won at Sefton Park by 4 wickets; **Chester Boughton Hall** beat New Brighton by 7 wickets. Colwyn Bay v **Nantwich** prov., on Sunday, May 4.

NEXT NEWSLETTER ISSUE: MONDAY, MAY 5