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**CHESHIRE COUNTY
CRICKET LEAGUE**



July 28 Newsletter: 2012 season

IT'S ANYBODY'S TITLE

RAIN, which has never been far away most weeks this season, foiled Hyde of almost certain victory – and top place in the **ECB Premier League** - at Toft while leaders Oxton were losing at Nantwich. Ironically Oxton pocketed more points (10) from this match than Hyde (7) and extended their fragile lead to seven points.

The title issue remains wide open and with seven weeks go, only 40 points separates the leaders from reigning champions Nantwich, at sixth

Toft were indebted to Josh Hancock for their tally of 209-8 at Booths Park, the Aussie opener carrying his bat for a fine 102, with Rob Jones (27) the next highest scorer. Hyde had reached 187-5 in 39.4 overs when a thunderstorm washed out further play, James Duffy 51, Chris Tipper 51 not out, Rob Jones 3-70.

Oxton lost by four wickets at Nantwich despite posting 250, their highest tally of the summer. Top batsmen were Lou Vincent, 89 and Chris Davies, 52 who took the score from 18-2 to 160-3, while Dabbers' skipper Andy Newton, who consistently underbowls himself, just missed a hat-trick in a 3-32 return.

Louis Bentley played his best innings of the season in a reply of 254-6 with eight overs to spare, the talented Lancashire left-hander closing on 113 not out aided by number eight Jimmy Warrington with a rapid unbeaten 51, the pair putting on an unbroken 74 to clinch a notable victory.

Lou Vincent has landed a full-time contract two-year to play first-class cricket for Auckland in his native New Zealand and will therefore be ineligible to return to play in the league in 2013. A fine player and exceedingly nice bloke, Lou – and his bizarre caravan - will be missed around the county.

Last ball win for CBH

Unpredictable Chester Boughton Hall pocketed 25 points with a boundary four off the last ball of an engaging game at Alderley Edge, which keeps them well in the reckoning. Alderley totalled 219, with Alan Day, 79 and Calum Rowe, 77 adding 160 for the second wicket, against Mark Rowlands' 5-41. Sound knocks in reply came from Steve Ogilby 51, Warren Goodwin 41 and Lee Dixon 35, but it took the bravery heart of teenage tailender Harry Killoran to strike a four off the final ball to seal it at 222-9, Zaymn Chapman claimed a best of the day 5-60 for the losers.

Macclesfield had to be content with seven abandonment points at Urmston after posting 151-8, Jack Ward and Craig Melrose both 39. Urmston had reached 117-6 with 35 of their 55 overs completed when the match was abandoned, Elliott Bullock 31 not out, Melrose 3-49.

A fine innings of 64 from skipper David Hurst was one of Neston's winning factors in a tight finish at Didsbury. Nick Anderson took 3-9 in the visitors' tally of 189 before Didsbury were bowled out for 172, Phil Slattery top-scoring with 58. Dave ('Call me Wilf') Jones, aged 57, made an unexpected first appearance of the season after retiring in 2003 with a Neston club record 1,043 wickets to his name. He turned up trumps yet again with 4-44 off 15.3 uncannily accurate overs (2 b & 2 lbw) and was proudly sporting his stiffness at Parkgate next day, while half-heartedly denying rumours of an extended comeback. Marple batted well and had the better (12 points to seven) of an abandoned match against Widnes at Beaconsfield road. Marple totalled 232-8 in the full 55 overs and Widnes had reached 163-6 from 47 when play was washed out by a heavy shower.

Neston win RedInsure T20

NESTON upset the form book when they beat holders Hyde to win the RedInsure T20 final by four wickets off the last ball of a thrilling game at Parkgate on Sunday.

Neston now go on to represent the League in the ECB t20 Area Finals at Mochdre next Sunday.

Toft beat Christleton in the T20 Plate final, also played at Neston

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Close finishes in Division One

THE same rain played havoc with most games in the **First Division**, but Bowdon defied the elements to beat Irby in the last over, while Grappenhall lost by 10 runs at home to Bramhall and slipped eight points behind the new leaders.

At South Downs Road, Irby totalled 162-8, Rob Houghton 55, Adrian Kinsey 40 not out, Gareth Edwards 3-55. Bowdon's reply was cut by 14 overs and there were only four balls left when skipper Edwards cracked a match-winning four to reach 166-9. Mark Chilton returned to score 44, while Mark Newman claimed 4-33.

Bramhall's Aussie batsman Travis Dean collared the Grappenhall bowling to smite them for 108 at Broad Lane, Luke Smith's 45 helping his side amass 249-6, Jason Smith 3-70. Grappenhall had to contend with time off the field in their reply, but Luke McCoy made light of the conditions, his unbeaten 132 not being the highest divisional score of the campaign. Richard Green, 50 helped him in a century stand, but it was Simon Wilkinson, 6-104 who played the winning hand, bowling Grappenhall out for 239.

Impressive Cheadle Hulme

Cheadle Hulme notched up a notable five wickets win against Bredbury St. Mark's at Grove Park after their visitors had scored 213-7, Darren Carr 97 not out, Chris Wood 63, Phil Balderson 3-59. Skipper Adam Wilde, 71, played another good innings to lead a charge to victory with just one of a reduced number of 36 overs left, Balderson chipping in with 41 not out and Jordan Potts 43.

Christleton were too good for Heaton Mersey who scored 175-7 after opting to bat first at The Heatons, Pieter Vermeulen 91, Matt Parkinson 4-60. Ifti Naseer 78 and 53 not out from Iroshan de Silva helped the Little Heath men win by a comfortable eight wickets margin.

Oulton Park had the better (11 points to seven) of their visit to Sale, Rick Moore topping 600 runs for the season with a fine innings of 125, helped by Danny Leech, 53 and Pat Roberts, 52 in an impressive tally of 253-5. Sale reached 192-4 in a reply off 42 overs when rain halted play. Willen Lubbe, 99 again batted superbly

The Bollington v Brooklands game was abandoned at an interesting stage. Brooklands totalled 197, David Madden 66, Alan Platt 59, Mo Ali a fine 6-33. To which Bolly had replied with 77-0, Mike Rixon 35, Tom Gower 33, in less than 13 overs.

Middlewich 43 points clear

MIDDLEWICH recorded an important victory on a day when several of their **Second Division** promotion rivals faltered.

They won by four wickets against struggling Upton at Haddon Field, restricting their visitors to 170-8, Joel Huston 73, Gavin Tomlinson 3-40, Dylan Freitag 3-44, then reaching 171-6 in the final over, James Williamson 57, James Cornford 42.

Cheadle stepped up to second spot with a 25-0 points demolition of Tattenhall at the Flacca. Tattenhall were bundled out for 94, Ollie Thompson 34, Paul Sperring 5-15 - including a spell of 5-0 in 5.2 overs - while Adam Wadsworth claimed 5-48. After Greg Dixon had been dismissed first ball, Dan Brown, 61 and Nick Reid, 35, sped their side to an early finish.

Aussie Adams first to 50 wickets

Warrington managed only seven points in a rain-ruined game against Stockport Georgians at Walton Lea. Georgians were bowled out for 164 by Aussie paceman Kyle Adams who became the first league bowler to top 50 wickets with an eye-catching 7-71. Warrington were allowed only 30 overs' reply by rain and had reached 145-7, Chris Kirby 35, Ifti Hussein 5-40.

Congleton lost by seven wickets at Alvanley, who have improved since former Lancashire star Andy Hayhurst became available. Congleton were dismissed for 134, Ryan Booth 43, Lee Ainsworth 5-35, Hayhurst 3-20, after which Alvanley coasted home at 138-3, William Speakman 59.

Malpas batted well at Poynton to post 212, Adrian Stubbs 57, Rob Ward 56, Pat Mackrell 55, Jake Turner 3-52, Rick Clark 3-46. But Poynton's batsmen topped that at 216-4, skipper Paul Gould, 87 carrying his bat, aided by Damien Stringer, 44 in a second wicket stand worth 94.

Timperley took 13 points from an abandoned game at Stockport after posting a decent 219-8, M. Brown 89, Joe Denley 3-16. Stockport were in deep trouble at 83-7 in a rain interrupted reply, Tom Facer 35 not out, Ian Grindley 3-4, Chris Page 3-37.

All Saturday's scorelines

ECB PREMIER LEAGUE

ALDERLEY EDGE (toss) v CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL:

Alderley Edge 219 (55 overs: A. Day 78, C. Rowe 77 = 159 for 2nd wicket, M Rowlands 5-41);
Chester 222-9 (48 overs: S Ogilby 51, W. Goodwin 41, L. Dixon 35, Z. Chapman 5-60).

Alderley Edge (25 pts.) beat Alderley Edge (10 pts.) by 1 wicket.

DIDSBURY (toss) v NESTON:

Neston 189 (50 overs: D Hurst 68, N. Anderson 4-39);
Didsbury 172 (44 overs: P: Slattery 58. D. Jones 4-44).

Neston (25 pts.) beat Didsbury (5 pts.) by 17 runs.

NANTWICH (toss) v OXTON

Oxton 250 (54 overs: L. Vincent 89, C. Davies 57, G. Fernando 33, A. Newton 3-32, A. Matthews 3-42);
Nantwich 254-6 (49 overs: L. Bentley 113no, J. Warrington 51no).

Nantwich (25 pts.) beat Oxton (8 pts.) by 4 wickets.

TOFT v HYDE (toss)

Toft 209-8 (55 overs: J. Hancock 102no);
Hyde 187-4 (40 overs: C. Tipper 51no, J. Duffy 51, R. Jones 3-70).

Match abandoned due to rain: Toft 9 pts., Hyde 7 pts.

URMSTON v MACCLESFIELD (toss)

Macclesfield 151-8 (55 overs: J. Ward 39, C. Melrose 39, K. Sawas 31);
Urmston 117-6 (35 overs: E. Bullock 31no, C. Melrose 3-49).

Match abandoned due to rain: 7 pts. each

WIDNES (toss) v MARPLE

Marple 232-8 (55 overs);
Widnes 163-6 (47 overs). No further information available.

Match abandoned due to rain: Marple 12 pts., Widnes 7 pts

FIRST DIVISION

BOLLINGTON v BROOKLANDS (won toss)

Brooklands 197 (48 overs: D. Madden 66, A Polatt 59, M. Ali 6-33);
Bollington 77-0 (12.2 overs: M Rixon 35no, T Gower 33no).

Match abandoned due to rain: Brooklands 8 pts., Bollington 7 pts.

BOWDON v IRBY (toss)

Irby 162-8 (50 overs: R Houghton 55, A Kinsey 40no, G. Edwards 3-55);
Bowdon 166-9 (35.2 overs, innings reduced to 36 overs by rain: M. Chilton 43, Mark Newman 4-33).

Bowdon (25 pts.) beat Irby (8 pts.) by 1 wicket.

CHEADLE HULME (toss) v BREDBURY ST. MARK'S

Bredbury 213-7 (50 overs: D. Carr 97no, C. Wood 63, P. Balderson 3-50);
Cheadle Hulme 217-5 (35.5 overs: A. Wilde 71, P. Balderson 44no, J. Potts 33, S. Raja 3-60).

Cheadle Hulme (25 pts.) beat Bredbury St. Mark's (10 pts.) by 5 wickets.

GRAPPENHALL (toss) v BRAMHALL:

Bramhall 249-6 (50 overs: T. Dean 108, L Smith 55, J. Smith 3-70)
Grappenhall 239 (43 overs: L. McCoy 132no, R. Green 52, S. Wilkinson 6-104).

Bramhall (25 pts.) beat Grappenhall (10 pts.) by 20 runs.

HEATON MERSEY (toss) v CHRISTLETON:

Heaton Mersey 175-7 (50 overs: P. Vermeulen 91, M. Parkinson 4-60);
Christleton 176-2 (28 overs: I. Naseer 78, I. De Silva 53no, V. Sood 39no).

Christleton (25 pts.) beat Heaton Mersey (4 pts.) by 8 wickets.

SALE (toss) v OULTON PARK:

Oulton Park 253-5 (50 overs: R. Moore 125, D. Leech 53, P. Roberts 52);

Sale 192-4 (41.3 overs: W. Lubbe 99).

Match abandoned due to rain: Oulton Park 11 pts., Sale 7 pts.

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SECOND DIVISION

ALVANLEY (won toss) v CONGLETON:

Congleton 134 (44 overs: R. Booth 43, L Ainsworth 5-35, A. Hayhurst 3-20);

Alvanley 138-3 (41 overs: W. Speakman 59, A. Bennion 31).

Alvanley (25 pts.) beat Congleton (1 pt.) by 7 wickets.

MIDDLEWICH (toss) v UPTON:

Upton 170-8 (50 overs: J Huston 73, G Tomlinson 3-40, D. Freitag 3-44);

Middlewich 171-6 (49.21 overs: J. Williamson 57, J. Cornford 41).

Middlewich (25 pts.) beat Upton (6 pts.) by 4 wickets.

POYNTON (toss) v MALPAS

Malpas 212 (49 overs: A. Stubbs 57, R. Ward 56, P. Mackrell 55, R. Clark 3-46, J. Turner 3-52);

Poynton 216-4 (37 overs: P. Gould 87no, D. Stringer 44).

Poynton (25 pts.) beat Malpas (9 pts.) by 6 wickets.

STOCKPORT v TIMPERLEY (toss)

Timperley 219-8 (50 overs: M. Brown 89, M. Ness 33, J Dunley 3-18, A. Porter 3-66);

Stockport5 83-7 (- overs: T. Facer 35no, I. Grindley 3-4, C. Page 3-35).

Match abandoned due to rain: Timperley 13 pts., Stockport 7 pts.

TATTENHALL v CHEADLE (toss)

Tattenhall 94 (34 overs: O. Thompson 34, J. Gibbon 30, P. Sperring 5-15, A. Wadsworth 5-48);

Cheadle 98-1 (22 overs: D. Brown 62no, N. Reid 35no).

Cheadle (5 pts.) beat Tattenhall (0 pts.) by 9 wickets

WARRINGTON v STOCKPORT GEORGIANS (toss)

Stockport Georgians 164 (50 overs: S Vincent 34, N. Johnson 32, K. Adams 7-71);

Warrington 145-7 (30 overs: C Kirby 35, I Hussain 5-40).

Match drawn: Stockport Georgians 9 pts., Warrington 7 pts.

PICK OF WEEK

ECB Premiership. Batting: Louis Bentley (Nantwich) 113no v Oxtou. Bowling: Zaymn Chapman (Alderley Edge) 5-60 v CBH.

First Division. Batting: Luke McCoy (Grappenhall 132no v Bramhall. . Bowling: Mo Ali (Bollington) 6-33 v Brooklands.

Second Division. Batting: M. Brown (Timperley) 89 v Stockport. Bowling: oKyle Adams (Warrington) 7-71 v Stockport Georgians.

Leading individual stats to July 21 (o = overseas player)

PREMIER LEAGUE (top five batsmen): K..Sawas (Macclesfield) 733 runs; L. Dixon (CBH) 476; T. Twiney (Hyde) 431; A. Day (Alderley Edge) 415; oA. McGuinness (Marple).

Top five bowlers: A. Birley (Oxtou) 40 wickets; J. Whittaker (Alderley Edge) 37; J. Warrington (Nantwich) 34; R. Porter (Macclesfield) and oG Fernando (Oxtou) both 32.

Wicket-keeper: P. Ashling (Toft) 10c & 9st; A. Worrall (Alderley Edge) 14c & 5 st, both 19 victims. .

FIRST DIVISION batting: R. Moore (Oulton Park) 491; I. De Silva (Christleton) 472; C. Wood (Bredbury) 410; oW. Lubbe (Sale) 398; A. Hughes (Irby) 381

Bowling: R. Halkon (Sale) 37; oV. Sood (Christleton) 35; R. Houghton (Irby) 31; A.J. Hart (Brooklands) 28; R Kitzinger (Bramhall) 27.

Wicket-keeper: R. Wood (Brooklands) 9 c and 6 st = 15 victims

SECOND DIVISION batting: oJ. Bailey (Congleton) 434; oM. Macquet (Timperley) 416; oT. Hyslop (Tattenhall) 382; G. Barber (Stockport) 371; J. Cornford (Middlewich) 369. oT. Hyslop (Tattenhall) 341; R. Barber (Stockport) 326.

Bowling: oK. Adams (Warrington) 47 wickets; I. Grindley (Timperley) and R. Fisher (Alvanley) both 33; T. Facer (Stockport), 29; oD. Freitag (Middlewich), P Sperring (Cheadle) and K Waterhouse (Congleton) all 27.

Wicket-keepers: C. Fletcher (Alvanley) 9 c & 3 st; M. Rudd (Warrington) 12 c; R. Sandford (Tattenhall) 9 c & 3 st all 12 victims.

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Tables after 15 games

<u>ECB Premier</u>	P	W (25)	D (2)	A/C (7)	L	BAT	BOWL	TOTAL
OXTON	15	7	1	3	4	16	11	225
HYDE	15	6	1	4	4	25	13	218
CHESTER BO. HALL	15	7	2	0	6	16	16	211
MACCLESFIELD	15	6	1	3	5	16	14	203
NESTON	15	5	3	3	4	18	18	188
NANTWICH	15	5	2	4	4	11	17	185
ALDERLEY EDGE	15	4	4	3	4	28	24	181
MARPLE	15	4	4	5	2	16	14	173
DIDSBURY	15	4	2	3	6	21	20	166
TOFT	15	4	5	1	5	16	28	161
WIDNES	15	4	0	5	6	10	10	155
URMSTON	15	2	2	3	8	40	19	134

<u>Division 1</u>	P	W (25)	T (18)	D (7)	C	L	BAT	BOWL	TOTAL
BOWDON	15	10	0	0	3	2	6	2	279
GRAPPENHALL	15	9	0	1	3	2	17	6	271
SALE	15	6	0	3	4	2	9	10	203
OULTON PARK	15	4	0	5	2	4	43	21	188
CHEADLE HULME	15	5	0	2	3	5	17	19	186
CHRISTLETON	15	4	0	3	3	5	26	21	174
BRAMHALL	15	4	1	2	3	5	8	13	164
BREDBURY ST. MK.	15	2	0	6	2	5	56	31	163
IRBY	15	2	0	3	3	7	38	25	140
BROOKLANDS	15	3	0	6	1	5	14	24	132
BOLLINGTON	15	1	0	5	5	4	28	17	115
HEATON MERSEY	15	2	0	4	3	6	13	21	113

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

<u>Division 2</u>	P	W (25)	D (2)	C (7)	L	BAT	BOWL	TOTAL
MIDDLEWICH	15	9	5	1	0	11	18	271
CHEADLE	15	8	2	4	1	4	8	244
POYNTON	15	7	2	4	2	10	13	230
WARRINGTON	15	7	2	3	3	14	14	228
CONGLETON	15	5	3	3	4	26	17	195
STOCKPORT	15	4	6	1	4	33	24	176
STOCKPORT GEO.	15	3	4	4	4	16	19	146
TATTENHALL	15	4	3	2	6	10	14	144
TIMPERLEY	15	3	2	3	7	19	23	142
ALVANLEY	15	3	2	1	9	21	29	136
UPTON	15	3	2	3	7	14	20	134
MALPAS	15	1	3	1	10	27	20	85

Transfers galore

FORMER Warrington pace bowler ROBERT BATEY has rejoined the promotion-seeking Second Division club on a transfer from Barnes in the Thames Valley League with effect from July 24.

RAB NAWAZ moves from Brooklands to Didsbury (July 21).

Bredbury St. Mark's have registered STEPHEN PIGEON and ANDY CAVE, both from High Lane in the Derbyshire and Cheshire League (July 24 and July 26 respectively).

NICHOLAS ROBERTS has moved from Oulton Park to Toft (June 29).

CALLUM KAY moves from Horwich RMI in the Bolton League to Didsbury (July 29).

O CLUBS who want a further supply 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 OFFERTON have indicated their interest in associate membership of the League in 2013 at 3rd XI and Over 40s levels.

O WIDNES failed to register their umpires' marks to co-ordinator Ken Spilsbury following their match at Macclesfield on July 21.

O MISSING 1st XI result sheet from July 21: Cheadle v Alvanley.

O CLUBS will be invoiced for fines at the end of the season, not at half-way and again at the end, as in the past.

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

Most Beautiful Grounds

A WEBSITE is compiling a list of the Most Beautiful Cricket Grounds in the UK and former chairman Bruce McDougall has not surprisingly nominated his beloved South Downs Road with special focus on the magnificent listed pavilion.

Other clubs whose pictures are shown on the website include Thorp Perrow, near York; Maidstone & Bray and The Grange at Edinburgh.

Bowdon club captain Gareth Edwards invites readers of *Newsletter* to take a look on:

www.themiddlestump.com/2012/07/the-most-beautiful-grounds-in-britain.html You can also follow The Middle Stump on twitter whatever that means.

O FORMER Bowdon and Cheshire fast bowler Simon Milner is back in Australia after a six weeks visit to the UK to stay with his brother, Stephen, now living in West Wales and to meet up with old colleagues. Simon who emigrated Down Under in 1988, has recently retired after working for the Government in the Capital Building at Canberra. .

WTB/MTB had the pleasure of staying with Simon at his Canberra home during England's 2002-03 tour Down Under. Needless to say, he stays in touch with Bowdon Matters by means of the weekly *Newsletter*

Praise for Ben Murray

UMPIRES David Stoter and Tom Park had rich praise for Stockport Georgians scorer Ben Murray following the rain interrupted Division Two game against Middlewich on July 21

They told *Newsletter*: "Georgians scorer Ben Murray is really excellent. His scoreboard is always up to date, including individual scores for both batsmen, which is not done widely throughout the league".

Newslette can also offer an appreciation of Ben's fortnightly Saturday evening phone in: His is the perfect delivery; with all salient facts reported slowly and clearly and he always gives a breakdown of the points which is a shortcoming of many other League reporters.

Death of Mike Best

LONG-serving Runcorn secretary Mike Best has died suddenly.

'Bestie' was famous through the Meller Braggins Cheshire League and further afield, having served the club in most capacities over the past four decades.

Meller Braggins Cheshire League round-up

FIRST DIVISION results in the **Meller Braggins Cheshire League** on Saturday, July 28:

Davenham 247-5 dec Lindow 229-9; Hale Barns 99-3 Ashley 97; Northwich 120-5 Runcorn 192-6 dec.; Oakmere 199-7dec. Prestbury 120-;9; Weaverham, 118-2 Mobberley 114; Winnington Park 211-5 dec., Ashton on Mersey 124-9.

PLACINGS after 15 games: 1. Weaverham 288 pts.; 2. Davenham 276; 3. Hale Barns 212; 4. Prestbury 190; 5. Ashton on Mersey 184; 6. Runcorn 177; 7. Winnington Park 159; 8. Ashley 155; 9. Oakmere 150; 10. Northwich 144; 11. Mobberley 140; 12. Lindow 127. Division 2 leaders: 1. Chester County Officers 306 pts. ; 2. Kingsley 265.

FIXTURES in Division 1 on Saturday, August 4 (1.30 p.m.): Ashley v Northwich; Ashton on Mersey v Hale Barns; Davenham v Oakmere; Lindow v Mobberley; Prestbury v Winnington Park; Runcorn v Weaverham.

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9 wickets for Tait, but Cheshire beaten

A FINE second innings knock of 125 not out by Cornwall's Taylor Williams killed hopes of a Cheshire victory in their **Minor Counties championship** match at Truro last week.

Bowlers were on top in the first innings, Cornwall being dismissed for 184, notably by Macclesfield paceman Ian Tait, with 6-52. Cheshire replied with a below par 168, Khalid Sawas, 73, being the only batsman to top 50 as seam bowler Sam Hockin struck repeatedly to claim 7-82.

With a lead of 16, Cornwall crowded on the runs in their second innings, Taylor Williams helping his side to a declared tally of 346-8. Tait again bowled well to take 3-76 and finish with match figures of 9-128.

Needing 362, Cheshire did better second time round with Jonny Kettle hitting 55, Danny Berry 41 and Lee Dixon 34 before Oxton's Ross Dixon, who entered the team at the last moment, came up with 63 off 45 balls which took the tally to 257, which was 105 runs short.

Cheshire's next game is against Berkshire – with former England spinner Shaun Udal – at Nantwich from Sunday – Tuesday, August 5 – 7 (11 a.m. daily). Neither team has yet won a match. Latest table:

	P	W	L	D	Ab.	Ptys.
Cornwall	4	2	0	2	0	57
Dorset	4	1	0	2	1	49
Wiltshire	4	1	1	2	0	49
Oxfordshire	4	1	0	2	1	45
Shropshire	4	1	1	2	0	41
Devon	4	1	0	3	0	38
BERKSHIRE	4	0	0	4	0	32
Wales	4	0	2	1	1	28
CHESHIRE	4	0	2	1	1	26
Herefordshire	4	0	1	0	3	22

O CHESHIRE Development XI scored a fine 4 runs victory over a Worcestershire 2nd team containing six contracted players at Macclesfield on Friday. Scores: Cheshire 145 (Ollie Law 44); Worcestershire 142 (Jack Ward 5-39).

Cheshire Cup semi-finals

DRAW for the semi-finals of the **Cheshire Cup**, both games to be played on Sunday, August 12: Chester Boughton Hall v Toft; Hyde v Elworth (both on Sunday, August 12).

SHIELD UP-DATE

IN the quarter-final of the **Cheshire Shield** on Sunday, Stockport beat Congleton in a bowl out after rain and will host Bowdon in the semifinal on Sunday, August 12. In the outstanding quarter-final Oulton Park will be at home to Wilmslow Wayfarers next Sunday, the winners to host Upton on August 12.

Information kindly provided by Cheshire Cup/ Shield organiser Rick Davis.

Exit for 50s

CHESHIRE lost interest in this season's **ECB 50 Plus county championship** when a strong Lancashire team beat them by 185 runs in a re-arranged fixture at Kearsley on Wednesday last week.

Cheshire's weakened attack saw Lancashire pile up 291-4, Mike Ingham 82, John Punchard 68 and Glen Bullock 40, while 30 wides were conceded.

Cheshire's reply never got going and despite a cameo 27 from wicket-keeper5 Tim Jackson, who completed an excellent all-round performance, they were bowled out for 103. Three defeats was too many to qualify for the play-offs in a tough group.

Team manager Paul Freedman admitted: "It has been a difficult year with injuries, retirements and non-availability combining to prevent us from achieving the high standards set in 2008-09. There is more work to be done".

O NESTON's Bob Yardley is in the England Over 60s team to meet Australia at Oakham CC on Tuesday this week.

Young Dabbers in national finals

CHESHIRE Under 13 champions Nantwich continue to make progress in the National rounds.

Playing in the West Midlands group finals at Leamington Spa, they first met Staffordshire champions Milford Hall, who had been unbeaten for two years. Nantwich scored 78-9 (George Newton 35) then held Milford Hall to 74-9, Harry Newton taking 4-18.

The Young Dabbers then took on Warwickshire winners and hosts Leamington Spa who scored 82-7, Harry Newton 4-7. Nantwich edged home on 83-7 with two balls to spare, George Newton 30 not out. Former Warwickshire and England captain MJK Smith presented the awards.

Nantwich now go forward to National Finals Day at Oakham School as one of six teams surviving from an original entry of more than 1,800. Club chairman Rob Sproston says: "We are very proud of these young lads, who have behaved well and played even better".

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Neston pip Hyde in RedInsure final thriller

IN the tensest finale since the League launched their knock out competition in 1993, host club Neston beat holders Hyde by four wickets off the last delivery of the day to win the **RedInsure T20** and with it the **Fred Graham Memorial Trophy**, at Parkgate on Sunday.

Hyde had looked overwhelming favourites for three-quarters of the game, James Duffy batting superbly for 77 to carry his side's score to an above par 141-9, which would have been more had not their last six batsmen failed to reach double figures, against Chris Finegan, 3-23 and Ashley Davis, 2-21.

Neston's response began sluggishly against tigerish Hyde fielding, the top four batsmen being removed cheaply and at half-way they were only 48-4. Skipper David Hurst came in to crack a reviving 28 and Chad Wilson scored 27, but it was a brilliant seventh-wicket partnership between Andy Roberts and Chris Finegan which eventually won the day. Roberts pinged sixes all round the ground and the equation narrowed to 18 needed off the last three overs, then 12 off two and six from the final over, followed by two required off the final delivery. The experienced Finegan tucked this away for two to close on 142-6 and a four wickets win. Wicket-keeper Roberts wound up with 46 and Finegan 14

Such handsome winners in 2011 when they went on reach the ECB National finals at Chelmsford, Hyde lacked a real cutting edge and their best bowler was little known Kyle O'Reilly with 2-28, and while Scott Kirwin had 1-8 off four tight overs, luckless Duffy's four went for 45.

Neston have much for which to thank to the spirit of Andy Roberts and he landed both the Man of the match award and the Champagne Moment, the latter for an eye-popping six which cracked the slates on house seemingly in the Dee promenade.

Semi-final results

DIDSBURY v HYDE: Hyde 103 (D. Berry 29, J. Hawley 3-30, J. Khan 2-11, J. Fawcett 2-15); Didsbury 92 (P. Critchley 34, M. Marfani 29, G Lomax 4-16, C. Tipper 2-14, S. Kirwin 2-22). Hyde won by 11 runs.

GRAPPENHALL v NESTON: Neston 137-9 (D Hurst 43no, C. Hackett 25, S. Guest 5-13, J. Smith 3-21); Grappenhall 129 (J. McCoy 45, L. McCoy 27, C. Wilson 3-28, J. Crick 2-15). Neston won by 8 runs.

Neston now go on to represent the League in the ECB t20 Area Finals at Mochdre, near Colwyn Bay, next Sunday, when they will play the host club, while Longton (NS&SCL) take on Tamworth (Birmingham League). The winners play-off for the right to host the Regional finals two weeks later.

TOFT WIN PLATE

PREMIERSHIP club Toft proved too strong for Christleton of Division One in the final of the **T20 Plate** at Neston on Sunday, adding to their 2006 success in the competition.

Toft struck the highest score in either T20 tournament this season when they reached 212-6, largely thanks to big-hitting Aussie Josh Hancock who was caught on the boundary for 94. He was helped by Ed Stubbs, 65, who won the Champagne Moment for a fourth successive six which lost the only pink ball available. Varun Sood took a commendable 4-15.

In reply, Christleton were bowled out for 134, which was 78 runs short, Harry Peel and Varun Sood both 29, Guy Newell 28, Danny Hancock 4-8, Tom Atkinson 2-15, Jimmy Lomas 2-19.

Josh Hancock was named Man of the match for his match-winning innings, the highest in either T20 all season.

In the presentation ceremony, League chairman David Humpage praised the £1,250 input of sponsors RedInsure which ensured the financial viability of the two competitions. He also thanked the host club groundstaff led by Don Hurst and the tea ladies, all six teams for great entertainment, the six umpires who did duty, Readers for supplying the cricket balls, the Graham family for the original trophy and for being present, photographer Allan Sherratt, T20 coordinator Jon Hacking and event organiser Mike Talbot-Butler for tireless work.

Cheques of £100 to the semi-finalists; £150 to runners up Hyde and £250 to winners Neston were handed over by Neil Scott, representing the sponsors.

The main trophy was handed to Neston skipper David Hurst by Ron Graham who said he had been very impressed with the set up at Neston and the cricket played all day. The Plate was presented to Toft captain Toby Drummond by the chairman.

The umpires were Ged Kinsey, Graham Harris, Barrie Burns, Chris Smith, Jon Hacking and Dion Kelly, the latter two standing in the T20 final.

Other finals dates

FINALS Day in the new style **RedInsure 2nd XI T20 Trophy** is at Timperley on Sunday, August 19 from 12 noon
The quarter-finals draw (games to be played by August 2) is: Timperley v Didsbury; Bramhall v Cheadle; Grappenhall v Middlewich; Chester Boughton Hall v Warrington
THE **Jack Gardner 3rd XI Trophy** Finals are at Warrington on Sunday, August 12, also from 12 noon.
Semi-final draw: Bredbury St. Mark's v Widnes (on main ground); Cheadle v Didsbury (on top ground).

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Urmston first to 40s play-offs

URMSTON became the first group winners in the **Over 40s section** when they beat Cheadle Hulme by three wickets at Moorside Road last Wednesday. They will now have the pleasure of figuring in the play-offs on their home ground as North-East champions on August Bank Holiday Monday.

Neston will pip Chester Boughton Hall for the West group title if they win at Upton on Wednesday this week.
The Central Group looks like going to the wire and Alsager Dabbers and Grappenhall will tie for top place if they both win their remaining two games. In which case they would meet in a play-off.
Bollington Veterans will clinch the South-East group if they win at Woodley on Wednesday.

Over 40s cricket this season is sponsored by TailorMade Group pensions.

NOTES RE WEDNESDAY, JULY 18: The key West group fixture between Chester Boughton Hall v Neston is not being re-arranged, so it is recorded as cancelled with 2 pts. each. Tattenhall Wreckers v Irby was not cancelled: Irby won, 4 pts. Central group: Ashley v Bowdon was not cancelled, Bowdon won, 4 pts.

O Clubs are continuing to fail to report matches cancelled. All results - and cancellations - MUST be notified by the home club to Competition secretary Mike Talbot-Butler by telephone, fax or preferably e-mail, as soon as possible after close of play and by Saturday am at the latest. £15 fines will be imposed on the laggards.

West group:

IRBY v CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL: CBH 130-6 (Fleet 31, Robinson 30, D. Newman 2-19); Irby 123-4 (Lea 30, Mahi 30).

Chester Boughton Hall (4 pts.) won by 7 runs.

NESTON v WARRINGTON: Warrington 56-7 (Smith 3-0); Neston 58-1 (G. Lea-Swain 26).

Neston (4 pts.) won by 9 wickets

OXTON v TATTENHALL WRECKERS: Tattenhall could not raise a team.

Oxton (4 pts.) won by default

Central group:

DAVENHAM v MOBBERLEY: Mobberley 81-8 (Goulding 2-6); Davenham 82-0 (Hudson 32, Goff 31).

Davenham (4 pts.) won by 10 wickets

GRAPPENHALL v ASHLEY: Grappenhall 129-5 (Radage 31, N. Sharp 30, Jones 3-25); Ashley 110-8 (Wernham 2-17).

Grappenhall (4 pts.) won by 19 runs

TOFT v BOWDON: Toft 119-4 (Drummond 33, Sheldon 30, Burgess 3-18); Bowdon 91 (Murray 3-4).

Toft (4 pts.) won by 28 runs

Played on Thursday: ALSAGER DABBERS v BOWDON VALE VIKINGS: Bowdon Vale 63-9 (Gould 19, Newnes 3-12, Jinks 2-10, Cottrill 2-14); Alsager 67-0 (Bason 30, Price 27).

Alsager Dabbers (4 pts.) won by 10 wickets.

North-East group:

BROOKLANDS v CHEADLE HULME LADYBRIDGE: Ladybridge 113 (Stuart 23, Pardoe 3-20, Belwood 3-20); Brooklands 81-8 (Williams 28, Brooke 27, Clarke 3-12).

Cheadle Hulme Ladybridge (4 pts.) won by 32 runs

SALE VIKINGS v CHEADLE: Sale 160-3 (Davenport 32, Harrop 32, Gleghorn 30); Cheadle 103-5 (Hall 31).

Sale Silverbacks (4 pts.) won by 57 runs

URMSTON TIGERS v CHEADLE HULME: Cheadle Hulme 116-8 (Balderson 32, Battye 31, Edginton 2-29, Pollard 2-30); Urmston 119-7 (Cartwright 32, Fenton 26, Mirza 2-19).

Urmston Tigers (4 pts.) won by 3 wickets.

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South-East group

BOLLINGTON VETERANS v MARPLE: Marple could not raise team

Bollington Veterans (4 pts.) won by default

BREDBURY SAINTS v WOODLEY: Bredbury 118-4 (Nuttall 30, Middleton 27); Woodley 55 (Martin 4-3, Hawkins 2-4).

Bredbury Saints (4 pts.) won by 63 runs.

MACCLESFIELD v BRAMHALL: Macclesfield 145-3 (Sayers 33, Barber 30); Bramhall 134-8 (Oliver 32, Whittingham 3-5, Frame 3-30).

Macclesfield (4 pts.) won by 11 runs

HOW THEY STAND

<u>West Group</u>	P	W	C	L	PTS.
NESTON	11	7	4	0	36
CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL	10	6	3	1	30
IRBY	10	5	3	2	26
TATTENHALL WRECKERS	10	3	1	6	14
OXTON	10	2	3	5	14
UPTON	10	2	3	5	14
WARRINGTON	10	0	4	6	8

<u>Central Group</u>	P	W	C	L	PTS.
ALSAGER DABBERS	12	8	3	1	38
GRAPPENHALL	12	8	3	1	38
TOFT	12	6	3	3	30
BOWDON VALE VIKINGS	12	5	2	5	24
BOWDON	12	3	4	5	20
ASHLEY	12	3	3	6	18
DAVENHAM	12	2	5	5	18
MOBBERLEY	12	0	3	9	6

<u>North-East group</u>	P	W	C	L	PTS.
<u>URMSTON TIGERS</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>36 champions</u>
CHEADLE HULME	10	5	3	2	26
CHEADLE	10	4	3	3	22
CHEADLE HULME LADY.	11	4	4	3	24
SALE SILVERBACKS	10	3	3	4	18
BROOKLANDS	11	2	2	7	12
ALDERLEY EDGE WIZARDS	10	0	3	7	6

<u>South-East group</u>	P	W	C	L	PTS.
BOLLINGTON VETERANS	10	8	2	0	36
BREDBURY SAINTS	10	7	1	2	30
POYNTON LEGENDS	10	5	3	2	26
MARPLE	11	3	4	4	20
MACCLESFIELD	11	3	3	5	18
WOODLEY	10	1	3	6	10
BRAMHALL	10	0	2	8	4

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1 (6.15 p.m.)

WEST GROUP: Chester Boughton Hall v Oxtton; Upton v Neston; Warrington v Irby. Open: Tattenhall Wreckers.

CENTRAL GROUP: Ashley v Alsager Dabbers; Bowdon Vale Vikings v Davenham; Mobberley v Bowdon; Toft v Grappenhall
NORTH EAST GROUP: Alderley Edge Wizards v Sale Silverbacks; Cheadle Hulme Ladybridge v Cheadle Hulme; Urmston Tigers v Cheadle. Open: Brooklands
SOUTH-EAST GROUP: Bramhall v Bredbury Saints; Macclesfield v Poynton Legends; Woodley v Bollington Veterans. Open: Marple.

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Saturday, August 4: fixtures and umpires

ECB PREMIER LEAGUE (12.30 p.m.)

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

Dion Kelly & Steve Walton
Stan Davies & Paul Herring
Ged Kinsey & John Lofthouse
Phil Prince & Glyn Roberts
Trevor Burnett & Wyn Harris
Dave Goulding & Jim Whitehead

DIVISION 1 (1 p.m.)

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

Steve Duckers & Graham Harris
Tom Park & Tom Spencer
Neville Abberley & Barrie Burns
John Lowe & Gary Zimmer
Neville Kent & Clive Rice
Brian Jones & Chris Smith

DIVISION 2 (1 p.m.)

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

Tony Morris & Ken Rothwell
Ankit Jain & Don Flanagan
Stuart Anderson & Bob Cunningham
Ron Bedson & David Moss
Howard Briggs & Rick Davis
Jon Hacking & Allan Lewis

2nd XI PREMIER DIVISION (1 p.m.)

**ALDERLEY EDGE v TOFT
CHEADFLE v BRAMHALL
DIDSBURY & v HYDE
NANTWICH v CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL
TOFT v MACCLESFIELD
URMSTON v GRAPPENHALL**

David Stoter & Club umpire
Club umpire & Club umpire
Chris Moore & No panel umpire available
Not available & Ian Wilson
Club umpire & Club umpire
No panel umpires available

Last word

Rob Moore reports record-breaking and other stirring events at Sale on Saturday”:

“I think I’m right in saying no League bowler has taken 5 wickets in 5 balls before. So take a bow Johnathan Dickens who achieved this feat playing for our 3rd XI at Timperley. He bowled all five victims and finished with figures of 2 overs, 1 maiden, 5 runs, 6 wickets. Sale scored 223-0 declared, both Mark Almond and Cheshire Under 14s Harry Stepney scoring unbeaten centuries. Dickens then helped despatch our good friends from Timperley for 71.

“We were one run short of four tons on the day as Rob Merga got 120 for the 2nd XI and the 1st XI’s Wihan Lubbe was out for 99.”

Rob concludes by speaking up for many other clubs: “Salians were just glad to get a few games of cricket, having had nine of our previous 13 games cancelled due to the wretched weather. And even on Saturday our 1st XI match was abandoned!”

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