

Chester chase down 175 to stay top ... Didsbury record third win in a row, and Appleton second win in a row ... Trinity still lead division two despite Wistaston chasing down 177 ... Northop Hall leave the league ... Chester score hugely important T20 West victory ... Cheshire go down to Northants defeat despite Mason century

CHESHIRE WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Division One - May 29:

Oakmere 175-9 (40; Natalie Lyons 61, Sophie Connor 36, Lauren O'Reilly 2-17, Maeve Sparks 2-25, Beth Nicholson 2-26, Hannah Snape 2-33) (11pts)

Chester Boughton Hall 179-8 (38.2; Kate Coppack 88*, O'Reilly 31, Sarah Worsdale 2-23) (25pts)

• This season has already seen its share of league records fall, and there was another one here as Chester maintained their 100 per cent league record with the highest successful run chase in league history, led by Kate Coppack.

Appleton 134-8 (40; Charlotte Cross 58, Charlotte Williams 3-26) (25pts) Ashton-on-Mersey 55 (38.2; Jenny Clarke 3-7) (6pts)

• Charlotte Cross's maiden half century was the highlight as Appleton got their league season back on track after losing their last two division one matches.

June 5:

Ashton-on-Mersey 89-8 (40; Sinead Murphy 18*, Hannah Jones 4-11, Zara Matthews 2-5, Charlotte Campion 2-21) (6pts) Didsbury 90-4 (30.2; Jones 33*, Rachel Mann 3-15) (25pts)

• Hannah Jones' contributions with bat and ball led the way to Didsbury's third successive league win

Oakmere 97-7 (40; Claire Waterhouse 44, Jane Tarpey 23ret, Nathalie Long 2-3, Sami Fowler 2-6) (7pts) Appleton 100-5 (38.3; Fowler 30, Anni Rashid 23, Waterhouse 3-20) (25pts)

Sami Fowler led the way to victory for Appleton, as Oakmere fell to a fourth successive league defeat

Division Two - May 29:

Hawarden Park 111 (39; Ellie Pritchard 38, Jenny Broughall 24, Emma Royle 3-7, Olivia Smith 2-9) (6pts) Stockport Trinity 112-4 (26; Carys White 27, Broughall 2-9) (25pts)

 Hawarden gave them a good test here, but there's still no stopping Trinity who made it four wins out of four in the league

Wistaston Village 150-3 (40; Morganne Prince 52, Hannah Bratt 41, Alison Smith 22, Ellie Grisedale 2-27) (24pts) Oxton 67 (32.3; Jess Pickavance 29, Smith 3-4, Emily Mackenzie 2-8, Kristina Lawson 2-15) (3pts)

 Wistaston prevailed by posting a solid total, backed up by some good bowling, and moved into second place in division two

June 5:

Stockport Trinity 177-4 (40; Hannah Gradwell 47, Olivia Smith 34, Jennie Kitzinger 31*, Emily Mackenzie 2-36) (8pts) Wistaston Village 179-1 (38.3; Laura MacLeod (Newton) 97*, Alison Smith 45*, Morganne Prince 22) (24pts)

Chester's record for the largest total successfully chased down lasted just one week, as here 177 proved in reach of
Wistaston. The batsman-dominated match began with a stand of 95 in 28 overs from Trinity openers Hannah
Gradwell and Olivia Smith. Jennie Kitzinger's 31 from 21 balls provided some late impetus and Trinity looked to have
enough to maintain their unbeaten record. However, Laura MacLeod batted through a superbly composed run chase,
adding 87 with Morganne Prince, and then 92 with Alison Smith, who also looked in superb form by the end. The
result keeps Wistaston in the chase for the division two title.

Astley Bridge (25pts) w/o Hawarden Park (minus 10pts)

Division Three - May 31:

Lymm Oughtrington Park 25 (9.3; T Akram 2-3) (1pt) Didsbury 2nd XI 26-1 (4.3) (25pts)

Didsbury made light work of Lymm as their second team recorded their first victory

With regret, I have to inform you that Northop Hall have resigned as members of the Cheshire Women's League.

Any club that has a scheduled division three match against that club should note that those fixtures will not now take place. The one Division 3 match Northop Hall did fulfil will now be removed from the league table.

I understand that most, of not all, of the Northop Hall players who wish to continue playing cricket will now transfer to Hawarden Park. However, the squad are free to join any other league club should they wish. As they have not played any matches in the T20 competitions this year, players who transfer will be available for the Senior Knockout Cup and the T20 Divisional Competition, as well as matches in the main league.

Northop Hall were due to play Leigh in a semi-final of the Development Knockout Cup on June 19. The next committee meeting is on June 15, when we will discuss the implications of their withdrawal for this competition.

The revised master fixture programme has been mailed to all club main representatives.

T20 DIVISIONAL COMPETITION

Western Division - May 27:

Wistaston Swans 43-9 (20; Annette Axon 2-4, Sammi Short 2-7, Kate Coppack 2-8) Chester Boughton Hall Deemons 47-1 (13.2; Coppack 12*, Lauren O'Reilly 12*)

Wistaston started their defence of the trophy with defeat, as Chester decisively gained revenge for their Knockout exit
at the hands of the Crewe-based team two weeks earlier. With only one side from each division now progressing to
the next stage, this was a huge win for Chester.

Eastern Division - May 23:

Stockport Trinity Fire 79-2 (20; Emma Royle 28ret) Appleton Tigers 81-2 (17.1; Emma Barlow 25ret)

A winning start in this division for Appleton, who won last year's Eastern Division with a 100 per cent record

CHESHIRE SENIORS

Royal London Women's One Day Championship Division Three - May 30:

Cheshire 196-3 (50; Ellie Mason 109*, Morganne Prince 29*, Bethan Solomon 2-19) (6pts) Northamptonshire 197-7 (48.4; Joanne Gardner 86, Meera Patel 58, Mason 3-37, Sammi Short 2-33) (15pts)

• In many ways this was an extraordinary game, but that will come as little consolation to Cheshire who ended on the losing side, and certainly not to Ellie Mason, who made her maiden senior century. 16 year old Mason underlined just how far she could go in the game by batting through the full 50 overs for the second highest score in Cheshire's history, ending a whisker short of Sarah Collyer's all-time Cheshire record that has stood for 18 years. Morganne Prince joined her in adding 96 for the fourth wicket, and took Cheshire to a total that would win most Division Three matches. Cheshire had every reason to be even more confident when Sammi Short's early wickets reduced Northants to 17-3. However, that would be the last wicket for a long period, as Joanne Gardner and Meera Patel added another 139 for the fourth wicket. Their efforts proved sufficient despite a late flurry of wickets, with Mason again to the fore. After scoring just 77 in the first half of the innings, Northants then knocked off the 120 they needed in the second half with eight balls to spare — an acceleration not normally seen at any level of women's cricket.

Cheshire: Sarah McCann (captain), Ellie Mason, Sami Fowler, Katie Haszeldine, Zehmarad Afzal, Sammi Short, Lauren O'Reilly, Morganne Prince, Hannah Gradwell, Kate Coppack, Kathryn Jackson

OTHER NEWS

Journalist Kevin Thompson, who has reported the league's matches on websites and radio stations in the past, is now working as a mobile DJ. He will now offer a discount or contribution to a club's funds should he get asked to do any function work at a league member club. www.boogienight.net.

CHESHIRE JUNIOR GIRLS' TEAMS

Women's Under 17 County T20 Group 1 - June 2:

Lancashire 130-3 (20; Shachi Pai 59, Danielle Collins 30, Eleanor Threlkeld 22) Cheshire 103-2 (20; Ellie Mason 72*)

• Ellie Mason's runs, made off 67 deliveries with three sixes, were not enough to overcome Lancashire's stiff total

Cheshire 113-5 (20; Ellie Mason 33, Morganne Prince 31) Cumbria 84-5 (20; Sammi Short 3-3)

 Sammi Short's excellent figures of three wickets for three runs, bowling two maidens in her four overs, snuffed out Cumbria's challenge

Comments on the two matches from manager Lee Prince ..

Our season started on Thursday on a gloriously sunny day at Blackpool CC and the girls did not disappoint, as all three sides contributed to the days' entertainment. Lancashire ran out winners of game one but not after Cumbria had restricted them to less than three figures, which is no mean achievement.

Our newly appointed Skipper Sarah Worsdale lost the toss and we were invited to bat in our first encounter against Cumbria, we posted a very competitive 113 off our 20 overs, with 33 from Ellie and 31 from Morganne and useful little cameos from Hannah B (10) and Carys (14no). We took the field with confidence and in truth never really gave Cumbria a foothold in the game, having scored just 34 off their first 10 overs Cumbria were always up against it. At the finish we had been restricted Cumbria to just 84, Sammi claiming three wickets, with all the bowlers doing well. A straight forward victory on the face of it, both James and I felt it was a job well done by the girls.

We knew that the bigger challenge lay ahead in the shape of Lancashire. We were invited to field in hot conditions in game two, we worked hard in the field as they reached 130 off their 20 overs. What was particularly pleasing was the way we reacted quickly to events and the way Sarah and the girls changed the bowling and changed field placings to stem the flow of runs and restrict the Lancs batters, it was great to see. We mounted a creditable challenge and the game was genuinely still alive with a little as three/four overs to go. Ellie was outstanding and continued her great start to the season with 72no and Olivia still finding her way as an opener showed great determination to support her with 18. We only lost by 27 runs. We fielded in consecutive matches for 40 overs in hot conditions and maybe leaked ten or fifteen too many runs at the end of the Lancs innings and this without doubt made our task a more difficult one to call, do we go straight from the start or do we build a platform and go late. We maybe didn't quite gauge things right but what was quite evident was that there is very little between the two teams. This is something that will not have escaped the Lancs team or their coaching staff - we play them three more times this summer and we must seize on any opportunities that come our way and push home our advantage.

James and I were very pleased with events on Thursday and see things going very definitely in the right direction. The team for the opening performance fixture against Lancashire on July 1st will be announced over the coming days, quickly followed by the squad for the Northern Tour (as I call it!), which includes the games at Durham and Yorkshire on July 7th and 8th.

Women's Under 15 County T20 Group 1 - June 1:

Cheshire 94-2 (20; Poppy Beardsell 39, Isobel Croft 27*, Lucy Higginbotham 2-13) Lancashire 96-1 (16.5; Rebecca Duckworth 36*, Isobel Jemmott 30*)

Cheshire 67-8 (20; Katie Bennett 25) Yorkshire 69-2 (12.3)

A challenging day of T20 against two leading counties saw Cheshire's totals comfortably overhauled in both matches

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

Tuesday June 7

Women's Under 15 County Championship A Division Group 1 (1200): Yorkshire v Cheshire (at Undercliffe)

Wednesday June 8

T20 Divisional Competition (1830):

Eastern Division: Stockport Trinity Fire v Didsbury Swordettes

Women's Under 13 County Championship B Division Group 1: Cheshire v Durham (at Barnton)

Thursday June 9

Women's Under 15 County Championship A Division Group 1 (1200): Derbyshire v Cheshire (at Rolleston)

Sunday June 12

Cheshire Women's League (1330):

Division Three: (30 overs): Lymm Oughtrington Park v Didsbury 2nd XI, (20 overs minimum): Bredbury St Mark's v Leigh Royal London Women's One-Day Championship Division Three (1100): Durham v Cheshire (at Durham City)

Monday June 13

Knockout Cup Quarter Final (1830): Oakmere Kats v Stockport Trinity Fire, Hawarden Park v Oxton Women's Under 15 County Championship A Division Group 1 (1300): Cheshire v Yorkshire

Thursday June 16

Knockout Cup Quarter Final (1830): Ashton-on-Mersey v Wistaston Swans Women's Under 15 County Championship A Division Group 1 (1200): Durham v Cheshire (at Sacriston)

Friday June 17

Knockout Cup Quarter Final (1830): Didsbury Swordettes v Appleton Tigers

Sunday June 19

Cheshire Women's League (1330):

Division One: Didsbury v Chester Boughton Hall, Ashton-on-Mersey v Oakmere

Division Two: Hawarden Park v Oxton, Astley Bridge v Stockport Trinity

TABLES

In division one and two, each team will play the others in their division at home and away, plus one fixture against each of the teams in the other division. Teams will play 13 matches in total. One up one down promotion and relegation will apply between the two divisions.

Division One

Team	p	w	I	BatP	BowlP	NRR	Pts
1.Chester Boughton Hall	4	4	0	0	0	1.33	100
2.Appleton	5	3	2	7	5	-0.08	87
3.Didsbury	4	3	1	5	1	0.14	81
4.Oakmere	5	1	4	16	15	-0.06	56
5.Ashton-on-Mersey	4	0	4	15	7	-1.44	22

Division Two

Team	p	W	I	С	lcn	wcn	BatP	BowlP	Pen	NRR	Pts
1.Stockport Trinity	5	3	1	0	0	1	7	1	0	1.25	108
2.Wistaston Village	5	3	1	1	0	0	3	2	2	0.5	86
3.Oxton	4	1	2	0	0	1	2	6	0	-0.08	58
4.Hawarden Park	5	0	3	1	1	0	9	6	0	-2.45	13
5.Astley Bridge	3	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	5

Division Three

Team	р	W	I	BatP	BowlP	NRR	Pts
1.Didsbury 2 nd XI	2	1	1	3	2	0.84	30
2.Bredbury St Mark's	1	1	0	0	0	9.45	25
3.Stockport Georgians	1	1	0	0	0	6	25
4.Leigh	1	1	0	0	0	8.0	25
5.Lymm Oughtrington Park	3	0	3	5	1	-6.59	6

p - Played, w - Won (25), I - Lost (0), c - Cancelled (8), a - Abandoned (8), lcn - Team Conceded (-10), wcn - Opposition Conceded (25), t - Tied (15), BatP - Batting Bonus Points, BowlP - Bowling Bonus Points, Pen - Penalty Points, NRR - Net run rate, Pts - Points