

FINALS DAY

T20 Divisional Competition Final:

Appleton Tigers 94-6 (20; Emma Barlow 25ret, Lorna Starkey 2-13)

Chester Boughton Hall Deemons 96-5 (19.3; Starkey 25ret, Sammi Short 25ret, Kathryn Jackson 2-23)

The Cheshire Women's League has been holding double-header Finals Days ever since 2008, but today went one better and staged three finals on the same pitch on the same day. The best was certainly saved for last as Western Division T20 champions Chester Boughton Hall sneaked past the target set by Eastern Division winners Appleton with just three balls to spare.

It was 13 year old Hannah Snape who finished the job by lofting experienced Appleton captain Nathalie Long to the midwicket boundary with both the second and third balls of the final over.

Appleton certainly posted a more than decent total batting first, with Emma Barlow getting them off to a good start, and Laura Jackson and Kathryn Jackson adding vital impetus later on.

Lorna Starkey got Chester off to a good start, and when she reached the retirement score of 25, she had scored almost all of the 30 runs that came in the first seven overs. But when two dangerous batsmen in Kate Coppack and Lauren O'Reilly fell cheaply, Appleton looked to be favourites.

Sammi Short, who had played second fiddle to the big hitters earlier on, then took charge and herself reached 25 before being forced to retire – by that stage she had reduced the runs required to single figures. Given that Short had earlier bowled three overs for just three runs, this was another young talent who played a significant part in the Deemons' victory.

However, two wickets fell to run outs as the pressure mounted, Laura Jackson came back to bowl more miserly overs, and with the lower order at the crease and seven required from five balls, would Chester get over the line? Thanks to Snape's final flourish the answer was a decisive Yes.

[Scorecard](#)

Chester and Appleton have of course met in finals on a number of previous occasions, and given the recent results in those matches, it was no surprise this went right to the wire. Only the first two resulted in decisive wins, and all the others have been genuine nailbiters:

2007 – Knockout Final – Chester won by 97 runs

2008 – Knockout Final – Chester won by 9 wickets

2010 – Knockout Final – Appleton won by 1 run

2010 – T20 Divisional Final – Appleton won by 5 wickets with 1 ball to spare

2012 – T20 Divisional Final – Chester won on faster run rate, after being 1 run ahead of where they needed to be when rain halted play

Senior Knockout Cup Final:

Oakmere Kats 34 (15.2; Lauren Smith 2-8, Hannah Jones 2-10)

Didsbury Swordettes 35-1 (8.5; Smith 17*)

Didsbury have made some formidable totals in T20 cricket this season while batting first, but here the job was all but done in the first eight overs of their bowling innings, as Oakmere imploded.

By the time Hannah Jones and Lauren Smith had taken their caps, having bowled unchanged for four overs each as the opening pair, Oakmere were 19-8. The two young Lancashire spinners had undoubtedly bowled well, with figures of 2-10 and 2-8 respectively, but Oakmere certainly contributed to their own downfall with four run outs.

Australia A all-rounder Smith then hit some fine shots to ensure the Swordettes' brief run chase was successful.

[Scorecard](#)

Development Knockout Cup Final:

Leigh Lionesses 96-5 (20; Georgia Taylor 25ret, Emily Mason 3-9)
Bredbury Saints 73-6 (20; Alex Wilson 26ret, Sarah Perry 3-14)

Division three leaders Leigh retained the Development Cup – the knockout competition exclusively for teams from that division.

The only two experienced players in a very young Leigh side – Nicky Deane and Sarah Perry – fell cheaply, but from 24-3, Georgia Taylor and Rachel Downs batted superbly, rotating the strike well and running well between the wickets, to ensure Bredbury would need almost 100 to win. Emily Mason contributed excellent figures of 3-9 and Alex Wilson conceded just 11 in her four overs.

Abi Barlow and Wilson took the Saints to 28-0 after five overs, but once the first wicket had fallen, things turned Leigh's way. Perry's bowling spell then snuffed out any remaining threat from the Stockport side.

[Scorecard](#)

The League extends its thanks to Finals Day hosts Timperley CC and umpires Keith Wells, Steve Jackson and Graham Pugh, the last two of which were on the ground from 9.30am, an hour before the first match, until the close of the last match after 7pm. Many thanks also to Carol Ingham for organising the day's events.

Very few women's club leagues offer this type of cup final experience. However the heart-stopping finale to Chester's T20 Divisional triumph illustrated just how entertaining a Finals Day can be.

Details of other matches played in these competitions in the last two weeks appear later in the newsletter.

CHESHIRE WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Division One – August 7:

Chester Boughton Hall (25pts) w/o Ashton-on-Mersey (minus 10pts)

- Chester 'won without playing' to go within 15 points of another league title, and they can finish the job at Oakmere on August 21

Appleton 155-6 (40; Emma Barlow 82*, Abby Nicholson 2-16, Charlotte Champion 2-22) (25pts)
Didsbury 117-6 (40; Lauren Smith 65, Leesa Mellon 20, Laura Jackson 2-18, Anni Rashid 2-20) (8pts)

- Emma Barlow's good recent form continued to lead her side to victory here – a win that keeps Chester waiting for the league title

Division Two – August 7:

Wistaston Village (25pts) w/o Hawarden Park (minus 10pts)

- Another forfeited match here sent Wistaston back to the top of division two, but they only lead by one point and Stockport Trinity can take a major step towards the title by beating Oxtun on August 21.

An article from a recent issue of ECB coaches' magazine Hitting The Seam appears at the end of this newsletter, and it highlights the role played by former Wistaston manager Keith Thornhill in rapidly transforming his side from league newcomers to T20 champions in successive seasons.

Division Three – August 1:

Didsbury 2nd XI 70-7 (20; Rebecca Fletcher 13, Kate Robinson 2-10, Fiona Reeve 2-13) (25pts)
Bredbury St Mark's 52-7 (20; Alex Wilson 11, Tasneem Akram 2-5, Laura Smith 2-9) (7pts)

- A good effort from all the Didsbury bowlers saw them through in this low scoring contest

August 8:

Didsbury 2nd XI 158-1 (20; Claire Moloney 71*, Lucy Smith 46) (25pts)
Stockport Georgians 22 (8.3; Laura Smith 5-3) (1pt)

- A one-sided win for Didsbury, as Claire Moloney and Lucy Smith contributed a century opening stand to take them within 10 points of leaders Leigh.

Matches that can still be re-arranged in Division Three. Clubs please advise of any new dates.

| Match | Reason not played on original date | Action if match not re-arranged |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Lymm v Didsbury 2 nd XI | Unfit ground | Record as cancelled, 8pts each |
| Lymm v Bredbury | Lymm unable to fulfil fixture | Award to Bredbury |

I have pleasure in unveiling the League XI team to play MCC at Ashton-on-Mersey on Wednesday August 31 at 1100:

Laura MacLeod (Wistaston Village, captain), Alison Smith (Wistaston Village), Phoebe Cottam (Oakmere, wk), Sarah Worsdale (Oakmere), Vicki Dean (Ashton-on-Mersey), Mary Priestner (Ashton-on-Mersey), Sammi Short (Chester Boughton Hall), Alexa Harrison (Oxton), Emma Barlow (Appleton), Lauren Smith (Didsbury), Emma Royle (Stockport Trinity). Fielding reserves: Becky Baldock (Ashton-on-Mersey) & Hannah Maybury (Ashton-on-Mersey). Scorers: Gill Short & David Kay.

The most illustrious player in the MCC line up this year is England Academy batsman Evelyn Jones, who plays county cricket for Staffordshire and who is appearing in the Super League for Loughborough Lightning. Their team also includes four Cheshire-based players:

Jennie Kitzinger (captain), Morganne Prince, Sarah Sutcliffe, Charlotte Williams, Evelyn Jones, Shweta Chaudhuri, Sarah Ginn, Jude Wilmot, Beth Heath (wk), Hannah Pettigrew, Sarah Pettigrew.

Permanent transfers / Dual player registrations:

Bhumika Doshi – Astley Bridge to Leigh – for league matches only as the player has already played T20 for Didsbury this season.

Now that Finals Day has been completed without the need for a reserve day, clubs are invited to arrange their own friendly tournaments should they wish to play on Sunday September 18. Any Division Three club with fixtures still to re-arrange should note that these matches should take priority over participation in any friendly tournament.

The next meeting of the League Committee will be on Tuesday October 11 at 1930 at Oakmere CC. As clubs may wish to obtain funding for winter training costs, the League has decided to commence a new annual cycle of Small Grants applications at this meeting. Any club wishing to obtain up to £200 of funding from the League should submit an application via the official Small Grants form. Applications can also be made nearer the start of the 2017 season if you wish. The AGM will be on Tuesday November 15 at 1930 at Lymm Oughtrington Park CC.

T20 DIVISIONAL COMPETITION

Eastern Division – August 2:

Ashton-on-Mersey 80-6 (20; Mina Khatun 25ret, Ellie Barker 2-5, Jennie Kitzinger 2-7, Katy Hart 2-11)
Stockport Trinity Fire 81-5 (13.4; Gaby McKeever 25ret, Rachel Mann 3-28)

- Trinity quickly completed their run chase to record their second win in this competition

August 4:

Ashton-on-Mersey 59-6 (20; Mina Khatun 25ret, Nathalie Long 2-9)
Appleton Tigers 60-9 (18.3; Emma Barlow 20, Mary Priestner 3-2, Alice Connett 2-4)

- Ashton went into this match with two defeats from two and Appleton with two victories. In what is surely Ashton's best performance so far of a difficult season, they almost turned the table on its head, with Appleton's last wicket pair of Nathalie Long and Judith Barnes required to complete the victory. Long and Sami Fowler's efforts with the ball looked to have put the Tigers on course for a third win in this division, but Mary Priestner's outstanding spell so nearly changed the course of the match.

August 5:

Appleton Tigers 105-6 (20; Emma Barlow 28ret, Holly McCurrie 23, Laura Smith 2-14)
Didsbury Swordettes 54-8 (20; Mille Frost 13, Sami Fowler 2-6, Nathalie Long 2-6, Anni Rashid 2-18)

- However, the following night Appleton completed an unbeaten Eastern Division campaign with a much larger win against Didsbury – inflicting the Manchester side's first defeat of the season in any T20 competition.

KNOCKOUT CUPS

Knockout Cup Semi Final – August 4:

Oxton 29-9 (20; Nicola Heaton 2-4, Jane Tarpey 2-4, Rachel Tidd 2-6)
Oakmere Kats 30-5 (9; Ellie Grisedale 2-1, Jess Pickavance 2-19)

- Despite the Oxton bowlers making some early inroads, their first innings total was not enough to stop Oakmere progressing to the final.

CHESHIRE JUNIOR GIRLS' TEAMS

Women's Under 17 County Championship A Division Group 1 – August 2:

Yorkshire 196-7 (45; Christine Lawson 3-40)
Cheshire 129 (35.3; Kathryn Jackson 18, Sarah Worsdale 18)

August 4:

Durham 129-6 (41; Emily Mackenzie 2-16)
Cheshire 130-7 (38; Olivia Smith 48*)

August 8:

Lancashire 115 (42.5; Hannah Jones 21, Emma Royle 3-9, Christine Lawson 2-17)
Cheshire 119-2 (40.3; Ellie Mason 74*, Olivia Smith 26*)

- In what has been a difficult season for all the Cheshire girls' teams results wise, this was surely the best result, with Ellie Mason and Olivia Smith completing a successful run chase, after an excellent spell from Emma Royle earlier. As noted by the Cheshire Cricket Board's Media Manager, Gareth Moorhouse, Ellie Mason recently passed 3000 career runs for the Cheshire senior and junior teams.

Women's Under 15 County Championship A Division Group 1 – August 8:

Yorkshire 181-8 (40; Poppy Beardsell 2-21, Grace Michell 2-26)
Cheshire 45 (23.2; Georgina Gill 18)

August 11:

Cheshire v Durham – Match cancelled

Women's Under 13 County Championship B Division Group 1 – July 28:

Cheshire v Durham – Match cancelled

August 10:

Cheshire 81 (30; Katie McLean 29)
Yorkshire Development 84-2 (17.4; Izzi Pearson 2-21)

WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE

Kia Women's Super League – August 3:

Lancashire Thunder 164-8 (20; Amy Satterthwaite 52, Deandra Dottin 42, Emma Lamb 26, Georgia Elwiss 2-37)
Loughborough Lightning 158 (19.5; Paige Scholfield 38, Thea Brookes 30*, Amy Jones 27, Elwiss 20, Sophie Ecclestone 3-23, Hayley Matthews 3-25)

- Lancashire Thunder recorded their first win here in an amazing match. After a disappointing batting display in their first match, they turned on the style here. Emma Lamb once again provided a solid start before the international stars Amy Satterthwaite and Deandra Dottin really got the scoreboard moving. With Sophie Ecclestone turning in a fine spell that included the prize wicket of Ellyse Perry, the Thunder looked to be home and dry when they reduced the strong Loughborough team to 88-7. Two of the less heralded players in the Midlands team – Paige Scholfield and Thea Brookes - then added 69 for the eighth wicket, and Lancashire needed a superbly composed final over from young West Indian spinner Hayley Matthews to see them home.

August 5:

Southern Vipers 132-4 (20; Sara McGlashan 54*, Arran Brindle 29*, Hayley Matthews 2-16)

Lancashire Thunder 121-7 (20; Emma Lamb 34, Amy Satterthwaite 31, Danielle Wyatt 29, Laura MacLeod 14, Morne Nielsen 2-16, Suzi Bates 2-20)

- Lancashire kept wickets in hand in the early stages of their run chase, but were unable to accelerate as required. Laura MacLeod, selected for the first time in the tournament, contributed 14 off as many deliveries late in the innings, but to no avail.

August 9:

Lancashire Thunder 102-9 (20; Amy Satterthwaite 34*, Emma Lamb 27, Laura MacLeod 17, Alex Hartley 3-11, Marizanne Kapp 2-18)

Surrey Stars 106-3 (15.2; Tammy Beaumont 45*, Bryony Smith 30, Sophie Ecclestone 1-20)

- Lancashire Thunder simply failed to make enough runs here, having been 66-2. Emma Lamb continued her consistent tournament but otherwise there was little to cheer with the bat on a pitch described by the BBC Radio commentators as an excellent surface. Sophie Ecclestone bowled 12 dot balls in her four over spell, and perplexingly was only asked to bowl one over in the first half of the innings – by the time she was re-introduced, this was effectively over as a contest.

August 12:

Yorkshire Diamonds 166-6 (20; Alex Blackwell 59, Katherine Brunt 36, Sophie Ecclestone 1-25)

Lancashire Thunder 71 (15; Deandra Dottin 25, Danielle Hazell 4-10, Brunt 3-6, Shabnim Ismail 2-23)

- Lancashire Thunder unfortunately saved the worst performance of their campaign for the last match, which was their showpiece 'Roses' fixture at Old Trafford. A crowd of 875, including players from all of the Cheshire junior girls' squads and most of the division 1/2 clubs in the CWCL saw Yorkshire dominate, especially from seven overs into the match onwards. Sophie Ecclestone contributed another tidy spell and took two catches but there was little to cheer as Danielle Hazell ran through the middle order and Katherine Brunt ended the match with a hat-trick.

My detailed thoughts on the match and the matchday experience can be read on the CricketHer blog [here](#).

Apologies for the information in earlier Dazzlers that the Cheshire group could meet in Stand C. As anyone who attended will know, this part of the ground was not opened on the night. The erroneous information was supplied to me by a Lancashire CCC official who insisted that Stand C would be open. As there was only one entrance in use on the night, I trust everyone managed to find the people they wished to amongst the crowd.

The ECB has announced that each of the six Super League franchises are to run their own Under 16 academies. These will replace the ECB's own Under 15 Development Programme. The ECB Under 19 Development Programme continues unchanged.

FIXTURES

Tuesday August 16

Under 15 Malvern Festival (1000): Cheshire v Shropshire

Wednesday August 17

Women's Under 17 County T20 Group 1 (at Chester Boughton Hall):

(1030): Cheshire v Derbyshire

(1630): Cheshire v Cumbria

Under 15 Malvern Festival:

(1000): Cheshire v Lincolnshire

(1330): Cheshire v Huntingdonshire

Thursday August 18

Under 15 Malvern Festival:

(1000): Cheshire v Northamptonshire

(1330): Cheshire v Devon

Sunday August 21

Cheshire Women's League (1330):

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

Division Two: Stockport Trinity v Oxtown

Division One/Two Cross-Divisional: Didsbury v Hawarden Park

Division Three (30 overs): Bredbury St Mark's v Didsbury 2nd XI, Lymm Oughtrington Park v Stockport Georgians

Under 17 Taunton Festival (1045): Cheshire v Wales (at King's College)

Monday August 22

Under 17 Taunton Festival (1045): Cheshire v Cornwall (at King's College)

Tuesday August 23

Under 17 Taunton Festival (1045): Cheshire v Kent (at King's College)

Wednesday August 24

Women's Under 17 County T20 Group 1 (at Carlisle):

(1330): Cheshire v Northumberland

(1630): Cumbria v Cheshire

Sunday August 28

Cheshire Women's League (1330):

Division Three (30 overs): Leigh v Bredbury St Mark's, Stockport Georgians v Didsbury 2nd XI

Women's County Championship Division Three (1100): Cheshire v Derbyshire (at Hawk Green)

Monday August 29

Women's County Championship Division Three (1100): Cheshire v Scotland (at Hyde)

Wednesday August 31

Senior Representative Match (1100): Cheshire Women's League XI v MCC (at Ashton-on-Mersey)

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 12 matches in total in division one and 11 in division two. One up one down promotion and relegation will apply between the two divisions.

Division One

| Team | p | w | l | a | lcn | wcn | BatP | BowlP | Pen | NRR | Pts |
|-----------------------|----|---|---|---|-----|-----|------|-------|-----|-------|-----|
| Chester Boughton Hall | 9 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 1.34 | 212 |
| Oakmere | 10 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 23 | 18 | 0 | 1.35 | 157 |
| Appleton | 9 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 8 | 0 | 0.68 | 151 |
| Didsbury | 9 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 10 | 0 | -0.54 | 113 |
| Ashton-on-Mersey | 9 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 24 | 10 | 1 | -0.5 | 81 |

Division Two

| Team | p | w | l | c | a | lcn | wcn | BatP | BowlP | Pen | NRR | Pts |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|---|-----|-----|------|-------|-----|-------|-----|
| Wistaston Village | 9 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 10 | 2 | -0.24 | 147 |
| Stockport Trinity | 8 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 1 | 0 | 0.84 | 146 |
| Oxtown | 8 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 14 | 0 | -0.8 | 100 |
| Hawarden Park | 9 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 9 | 10 | 0 | -3.58 | -3 |

(Astley Bridge have withdrawn and the results of the matches they played have been removed from the division one and two tables)

Division Three

| Team | p | w | l | a | BatP | BowIP | NRR | Pts |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|---|------|-------|-------|-----|
| Leigh | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 2.52 | 90 |
| Didsbury 2 nd XI | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 2.64 | 80 |
| Bredbury St Mark's | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 1.25 | 42 |
| Stockport Georgians | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 5 | -2.46 | 33 |
| Lymm Oughtrington Park | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 6 | 2 | -6.7 | 8 |

(Northop Hall have withdrawn and the result of the one match they played versus Leigh has been removed from the table)

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

THE DIFFERENCE A COACH MAKES

Wistaston Village CC didn't have a women's team until three years ago, but the intervention of Keith Thornhill as coach has seen them achieve promotion and win two T20 cup titles.

There had always been enough daughters and sisters around Wistaston who were keen to play, but it wasn't until the appointment of a coach, in the shape of Keith Thornhill, that a women's team started to come together.

Keith, a former player, had already coached boys' age groups, but his daughter loved cricket and that gave him the impetus to recruit and coach other girls to form a team.

He helped turn Wistaston into a 'hub' for girls from surrounding areas to play, but as nearby clubs started to form their own teams, some of them drifted away to compete in matches. Thornhill decided Wistaston would follow suit.

They initially played friendlies, but as the players got older and progressed to red ball cricket at under-15s, the club decided to take the plunge and enter a very youthful side into the Cheshire Women's Cricket Development League.

In their first year, 2013, they were promoted to Division Two. The following year they won the T20 Cup. Last season, they won it again. 'Things have happened quite quickly!' admits Keith.

In the beginning, the coach was faced with a mix of abilities ranging from those who had played for the county under-15s and others who were enthusiastic beginners. He admits the task of drawing together girls with such disparate skill levels was not an easy one.

'That tests your coaching skills to quite a degree,' he says.



'How do you keep the good ones progressing and interested, and try to develop the beginners too, then try to get both groups in the same team?

'We managed it. We flexed our practices to suit different needs, making sure the better bowlers were bowling at the better batsmen. Within a year, novice bowlers had the confidence to bowl in matches.'

Having previously coached boys' teams, Keith found some differences in how girls responded to his coaching. These differences enabled him to develop the girls quicker than the all-male groups he'd worked with previously.

'One of the big differences I found between the girls and boys is the girls really take everything in,' he says. 'They really listen, soak it up and want to show they've understood.'

'Although that's often the case with boys too, I find you'll always get one who is harder to coach and has a negative

effect on the rest of the group. But the girls all wanted to try and improve.

'It makes coaching so much easier because you can try more interesting stuff and they all want to be part of it. I'm relatively new into women's coaching and that really excited me, planning a session and knowing it would get a positive reaction.'

'We were lucky that we had a very keen group. They loved each other's company and could see what we were trying to do, and were really engaged.'

Having run the girls' section for six years, Keith is now stepping aside to hand the reins over to the women's captain, who has taken a coaching qualification and can 'drive the team forward'.

'We've taken them to a level now where they're pretty self-sufficient,' he says. 'They know the game, can take ownership of the team, and take it to wherever they want.'