

## **CHESHIRE WOMEN'S LEAGUE**

Items from the recent Captains' Briefing, and other important pre-season information ...

**League Fixtures & Competitions.** The opening league fixtures on April 23 (Sunday week) see 2016 league champions Chester Boughton Hall play Oakmere at home. After winning division two last year, Stockport Trinity kick off their division one campaign at home to Didsbury, while Leigh, newly promoted to division two, travel to Wistaston Village.

A slightly revised set of fixtures have been issued to take account of two things:

- The move of the Bredbury St Mark's team to Woodley – here Woodley has simply been substituted for Bredbury in each fixture, and all match dates remain unchanged
- Oxton's confirmation that they will not enter the T20 Divisional Competition. This competition now contains just eight teams, so round-robin fixtures have been issued for a Western Division comprising Appleton, Chester, Oakmere and Wistaston; and an Eastern Division comprising Ashton, Didsbury, Trinity and Woodley. The four-team Western Division promises to be especially exciting, as all these teams have topped a T20 regional division in the past, and three of the teams have won the competition outright

Appleton and Oakmere will meet in a heavyweight clash in round one of this year's Senior Knockout Cup.

All fixtures can be viewed on [Play Cricket](#) or on [Pitchero](#). They should also show on individual clubs' Play Cricket sites, and Pitchero sites where clubs use that site provider. Any clubs seeking to re-arrange fixtures in division 1/2 must do so by April 16 (this coming Sunday).

Chester Boughton Hall's first-class playing and pavilion facilities will host Finals Day on Sunday August 20.

**Representative Cricket.** The League XI will play the MCC on Friday August 4. A host venue is sought, ideally this will be a League member club that has not previously hosted the fixture, and which can provide both lunch and tea for around 30 people, as well as an all-day bar. There will be no League XI pre-season match this year, however the League may look at arranging a second League XI match for August Bank Holiday Monday (August 28), and a decision will be made at the next Committee meeting on June 14 regarding this.

**Regulations.** The following regulations changes have been adopted after the votes at the recent Rules meeting:

1. (Division 3 only). Matches will be played as 20 overs per side unless the two teams mutually agree to play the match as 30 overs per side. Teams aspiring to be promoted to Division 2 for the following season are encouraged to play as many 30 over matches as possible.
2. (Division 3 only). At least 50% of a team's line up in any match must comprise members of that team's squad, the remainder can be players obtained via the Loan System (*replaces the previous regulation whereby a team needed six of their own players to use the Loan System*).
3. (Divisions 1-3): Batting points will no longer be granted for batting a certain number of overs. (*Batting points awarded will now only be based on runs scored, and only five batting points will be available to each team*).
4. (Division 1/2 only). Where adverse weather is predicted prior to the end of normal hours of play, the two teams can by mutual consent agree to reduce the number of overs per side to anything between 20 and 39 even though no playing time may have been lost prior to the start.
5. (Division 3 only). In matches played as 20 overs per side each bowler can bowl a maximum of five overs. In matches played as 30 overs per side two bowlers on each side can bowl a maximum of eight overs and the remaining bowlers a maximum of seven overs.

No changes have been made to the regulations for any of the T20 competitions.

All regulations can be viewed on [the League website](#). Clubs should ensure that a copy of the relevant regulations is made available to their appointed umpires. Division 3 clubs in particular are asked to note that the regulations for the Development Knockout Cup differ from those in Division 3 in a number of ways – bowlers' overs, use of coloured balls, batsmen needing to retire at 25, free hits for no balls, etc.

**Disciplinary Matters.** The regulation allowing the umpires to award five penalty runs to the opposing team for serious disciplinary breaches remains in force for any match in any competition that is officiated by two qualified umpires. The umpires will act should they agree that a player's action constitutes either an act of dissent or unacceptable abuse towards a member of the opposing team. From October 1 2017, something similar will be introduced to the Laws of Cricket, indeed the recently announced changes to the Laws, which will not come into effect in English domestic cricket until the 2018 season, will give umpires the power to send a player off, either for a set number of overs or for the remainder of the match, as well as to impose penalty runs.

**Match Start Times.** Clubs are reminded that the standard match start times of 1330 for Sunday matches and 1830 for weekday matches can be altered by mutual consent of the two clubs involved. The League acknowledges however that junior cricket taking place on many club grounds on Sunday mornings could prevent earlier starts being agreed. On the last occasion that enough people from the League took part in the National Playing Survey, a significant proportion of respondents indicated that they would prefer to start matches at 1100 or 1200. This was the only area of the Survey where a desire for significant change was apparent – otherwise a significant proportion of respondents supported playing 40 over cricket on Sundays, and the League's overall satisfaction score amongst its players was well above the national average.

**Player Registrations.** It is not necessary for clubs to register their entire playing squad for League or Cup matches. However, the League Fixtures & Results Secretaries will need to be informed in advance of the relevant match of any of the following:

- A player who has a dual membership to play League cricket for one club and T20 cricket for another – in these circumstances it is up to the player's T20 club to inform the League
- Any use of the Loan System (applies in League matches only). The league regulations regarding loans state that the parent club must agree to loan out their player, so all loan applications must be made via the parent club's captain, manager etc. and direct approaches to individual players must not be made.
- A player who transfers from another club after the season has commenced. This requirement applies if the player moves clubs within our League, or transfers from a club in the Northern League (also known as Yorkshire League or White Rose League), Midlands League, Southern League or South West League.

**Media.** Following discussions at recent meetings it has been decided that the League's media strategy will be altered in some respects. The League was concerned that the previous system, involving clubs in division 1/2 communicating their results within a few hours of the match ending, and the League's Press Officer then having to write the press release the same evening, was leading to a lot of work for very little added value for the League and its member clubs.

Therefore in 2017 clubs in division 1/2 will now have until 1900 on Monday (i.e. the day following Sunday league matches) to submit their results via one of the following methods:

- A phone call to my mobile number 07733 147704 – Sunday evening may still be the best time to make a live phone call
- Sending a fully completed Official Results Form to my email at [martinsaxon28@gmail.com](mailto:martinsaxon28@gmail.com)
- Entering a fully completed scorecard on Play Cricket, whether this is done manually or via an upload from a computer scoring program. The new [Play-Cricket Scorer app](#) is one way of doing this.

This means that the League will no longer be able to meet weekly press deadlines, with most Cheshire newspapers requiring copy by around 1000 each Monday. However very few titles appeared to be printing any details of the League's press releases. Clubs are therefore asked to consider what more they can do to secure coverage for their women's team in the local media.

**League Dinner.** After a well-received dinner at Hazel Grove Golf Club in 2011, the League is pleased to announce that it will be returning to the Stockport venue for the 2017 Presentation Dinner. Mark the date of Saturday September 23 in your diaries now.

**Cheshire Board website.** The [Women & Girls Cricket pages](#) on the Cheshire Board website have been revamped, why not take a look?

## **CHESHIRE SENIORS**

Cheshire's fixtures in Division 3 Group B of the NatWest Women's County T20 are listed here. Contrary to previous indications, the ECB has in fact regionalised this competition below the top two divisions. The regional divisions each comprise only six teams, so each team will play some teams twice and others only once. The winners of Group B will be promoted to Division 2.

June	18	Lincolnshire	H (Chester BH)	1030
		Shropshire	H (Chester BH)	1630
July	2	Lincolnshire	A (Woodhall Spa)	1030
		Cumbria	Woodhall Spa	1330
	16	Northumberland	Cumbria venue	1330
		Cumbria	A	1630
	30	Leicestershire	A	1030
		Shropshire	Leicestershire venue	1330

Following the recent decision for the Cheshire senior team to concentrate on T20 cricket only, [this document clarifies the new Player Pathway](#), which still provides the same opportunities for Cheshire players to achieve regional and international recognition.

## **CHESHIRE JUNIOR GIRLS' TEAMS**

Fixtures for Cheshire's junior representative teams are as follows:

### Under 17 County Championship A Division Group 1

July	3	Yorkshire	A (Harrogate)	1100
	6	Lancashire	H (Wistaston Village)	
	11	Yorkshire	H (Elworth)	1300
	27	Durham	A (Darlington RA)	
August	2	Nottinghamshire	H (Chester BH)	
	10	Durham	H (Ashton-on-Mersey)	
	15	Lancashire	A	
	18	Nottinghamshire	A	

### Under 17 County T20 Group 1

June	1	Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire	H (Middlewich)	1030 & 1630
July	28	Yorkshire & Durham	Darlington	1330 & 1630
August	21	Cumbria & Shropshire	Whitchurch, Shropshire	1330 & 1630

### Under 15 County Championship A Division Group 1

May	16	Lancashire	H	1200
	18	Derbyshire	H	1200
	22	Nottinghamshire	A	
June	8	Yorkshire	H (Warrington)	1200
	13	Lancashire	A	
	22	Derbyshire	A (Clifton)	1200
	29	Yorkshire	A (Undercliffe)	
July	13	Durham	A (Sacrison)	1200
	31	Nottinghamshire	H (Macclesfield)	1200
August	2	Durham	H	1200

### Under 15 County T20 Group 2

May	30	Cumbria & Lincolnshire	H (Warrington)	1030 & 1630
July	25	Leicestershire & Cumbria	Newtown Linford, Leicestershire	1030 & 1330
August	29	Leicestershire & Northumberland		1330 & 1630

### Under 15 Malvern Festival

August	15	Lincolnshire	1030
	16	Warwickshire	1200
	17	Hertfordshire	1030

## Under 13 County League B Division Group 1

June	7	Cumbria	H (Lymm OP)	1300
	15	Northumberland	H (Barnton)	1300
July	6	Durham	A (Burnopfield)	1300
	13	Lincolnshire	A	
	26	Leicestershire	H (Lindow)	1300
August	1	Shropshire	A (Market Drayton)	1200

## Under 13 Friendlies

May	23	Lancashire B	H (Upton)	1300
June	27	Lancashire	A	
July	7	Northumberland & Durham	A (Blagdon Park)	1000

## **JUNIOR GIRLS CLUB CRICKET & SENIOR WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES**

Any volunteers wishing to manage a junior girls' District team, e.g. Cheshire North, Cheshire West, etc., should make themselves known to Jessica Lewis, the Cheshire Cricket Board's Development Officer for Women & Girls, via [jessicalewis@live.co.uk](mailto:jessicalewis@live.co.uk) / 07429 164870. Any players who wish to make the step up to playing hardball cricket are encouraged to take part in these games, even if they do not belong to an existing girls' club team. The idea is to bring together girls from numerous clubs in one area to play against other areas.

The Cheshire Board site lists all the 2017 fixtures for junior girls' clubs and 'hub teams' [here](#). A 'hub' is a team for any girls not attached to a club side who still wish to play.

The site also contains a [registration form](#) for any club wishing to register for a girls' cricket festival day – forthcoming festivals include Sunday April 30 at Lindow CC, Sunday May 14 at Marple CC and Sunday June 11 at Timperley CC. Any girls wishing to play cricket are encouraged to attend these events, whether they are part of a team or if they choose to enter as an individual/ group. If contact is made with the organiser of the festival, then an attempt can be made to form additional teams from the individuals who express an interest.

Registrations can also be made by clubs wishing to [participate in the Women's Festivals](#). These nine festivals, all to be played with a softball, include the rapidly growing Prosecco Cricket Festivals – six-a-side tournaments where your entry includes a free glass of Prosecco - and these are aimed at women and girls aged 15+ who are new to cricket. Prosecco Cricket will be coming to Cheshire on Friday May 5 at Chester Boughton Hall CC and Friday July 21 at Alvanley CC. 'Super' Festivals are also confirmed for Sunday July 2 at Timperley CC and Sunday July 30 at Warrington CC.

Clubs wishing to host their own women's or girls' festival of any description are also encouraged to contact Jess Lewis.

## **WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE**

Sky Sports will televise eight matches in the Super League in 2017. The first six matches in the round-robin competition will be shown as part of double-headers with matches in the men's County T20 Blast. Sky will then also take its cameras to Finals Day at Hove on September 1. This is the first time that UK domestic women's cricket will be shown on TV.

Lancashire Thunder have three home matches. The first will be on the afternoon of Wednesday August 16 against Surrey Stars at Old Trafford, and will be part of a televised double-header, with a men's match (Lancashire Lightning v Worcestershire Rapids) to follow at 1830. The Thunder also play stand-alone home matches on Sunday August 20 versus Loughborough Lightning at Blackpool CC, and on Wednesday August 23 against Southern Vipers at Liverpool CC. All three matches are scheduled to start at 1430.

We look forward to seeing as many people with a connection to Cheshire women's or girls' cricket at Old Trafford or Liverpool. (The Blackpool match is however on the same day as the CWCL Finals Day). Lancashire Thunder is in no way a Lancashire county side – it represents the entire North West region, and includes players from Cheshire in the squad, so there is every reason to get behind this team and to wish them every success.

Tickets for Stand A (where under 18s tickets are available for just £4 and adults £10, so probably the best for a club group trip) for the Old Trafford match can NOW be purchased [here](#), and general admission tickets for the Liverpool match can be purchased [here](#) once they go on sale. For the Old Trafford match, the ticket also includes the men's match.

[Danielle Hazell is the new captain](#) of Lancashire Thunder. Other confirmed Thunder players so far are Australia's Jess Jonassen, England's Kate Cross and the New Zealand duo of Amy Satterthwaite and Lea Tahuhu. Sarah Taylor will also be in the squad if she is fit to return to the sport.

## **ENGLAND WOMEN**

Chester Boughton Hall and Cheshire's Sammi Short could soon become the latest player from the county to gain international recognition, after she was named in the extended England under-21 squad of 16 for the Women's Indoor World Cup. The squad will be reduced to 12 ahead of the tournament in Dubai later this year.

England's fixtures in the World Cup have been announced. All eight competing teams play each other once in the group stages, before the top four progress to the semi-finals.

June	24	India	Derby
	27	Pakistan	Leicester
July	2	Sri Lanka	Taunton
	5	South Africa	Bristol
	9	Australia	Bristol
	12	New Zealand	Derby
	15	West Indies	Bristol
	18	Semi Final 1	Bristol
	20	Semi Final 2	Derby
	23	Final	Lord's

Tickets for all matches can be purchased [here](#).

England have named a squad of 24 for a week-long series of matches in the United Arab Emirates at the end of this month. All current centrally contracted players are selected – save for Sarah Taylor whose personal issues are still preventing her return to action. Also in the squad are Sophie Ecclestone of Chester, who made her T20 and ODI debuts last year; and for Lancashire Thunder's star young batsman Emma Lamb, who plays men's cricket at Bramhall, and who was called up for the recent Sri Lanka tour but did not play. Uncapped players in the squad include Hollie Armitage, Alice Davidson-Richards, Georgia Adams, Evelyn Jones and Linsey Smith. The squad will play three matches against Ireland during the week, plus a number of inter-squad matches. None of the contracted players will be available for club/county selection during the following Bank Holiday weekend (April 29 to May 1), while the other players in the squad will only be released to their clubs/counties at the discretion of the England management.

## **FORTHCOMING FIXTURES**

### **Sunday April 23**

Cheshire Women's League (1330):

Division One: Chester Boughton Hall v Oakmere, Stockport Trinity v Didsbury

Division Two: Wistaston Village v Leigh, Oxton v Ashton-on-Mersey

Development Knockout Cup Quarter-Final: Stockport Georgians v Lymm Lightning

### **Sunday April 30**

Cheshire Women's League (1330):

Division One: Chester Boughton Hall v Appleton, Oakmere v Stockport Trinity

Division Two: Leigh v Oxton

Division Three: Stockport Georgians v Didsbury 2<sup>nd</sup> XI