

## **CHESHIRE WOMEN'S LEAGUE**

### **Division One – September 1:**

Appleton 58 (37; Holly McCurrie 11, Amna Malik 3-7, Stacey Miles 3-21) (2pts)

Didsbury 32-1 (6.3; Mishel Jeena 21\*) (25pts)

(Didsbury revised target was 32 in 22 overs)

- This win took Didsbury to within six points of their first league championship. Their opening bowlers Zara Matthews and Hannah Jones both recorded 1-8 in eight overs and Amna Malik and Stacey Miles were their main wicket takers. Perhaps fearing further interruptions, Mishel Jeena led the way as they raced to their revised target in less than one-third of the available overs.

Porthill Park 234-2 (40; Evelyn Jones 138\*, Lucy Yates 51\*, Tilly Buss 2-47) (25pts)

Chester Boughton Hall 82 (31; Beth Nicholson 11, Amy Griffiths 3-12, Emily Stones 2-2, Ellie-Mae Davies 2-7) (3pts)

- Porthill Park recorded a resounding win to ensure that the title race at least went to the final day. For much of the season, an innings of 125 by Evelyn Jones was the league's highest score of the season, until Oakmere's Dawn Prestidge made 134 on the Bank Holiday weekend. Here though Jones went back to the top spot with another superb innings - Prestidge and Jones are amongst the league players who previously made it to England's second team Academy squad and are well ahead of their nearest rivals as division one's leading run scorers this year. Porthill's excellent young bowling attack completed the job here, with Emily Stones' five maidens in six overs being a particularly impressive display. Chester broke the league record for a run chase this year, scoring 215, and also made 197 in losing to Oakmere, but were only able to record two wins in the league, both against Stockport Trinity.

Stockport Trinity 122 (37; Carys White 35, Jennie Kitzinger 24, Rachel Tidd 3-12) (12pts)

Oakmere 3-0 (0.5) (17pts)

(Match initially reduced to 39 overs per side and then abandoned, batting points awarded pro-rata based on run rate)

- In only the second no result match in the first division this year, outgoing champions Oakmere ended their campaign. The Northwich-based club have had some impressive shows this year and have been a little less consistent but are still set to finish in the top three.

### **September 8:**

Stockport Trinity 56-8 (40; Carys White 18, Zara Matthews 3-6, Hana Rafiq 2-14) (2pts)

Didsbury 57-2 (14; Roshini Prince-Navaratnam 26\*) (25pts)

- This final excellent performance wrapped up a first League Championship title for Didsbury. The South Manchester club first started playing competitive matches in 2012, and although there was instant success that year, as they finished top of division three, they still suffered some big defeats against top division sides in T20 tournaments. Since then, a lot of hard work on and off the field has ensured they kept moving forwards, and seven years later they now stand at the top of the tree in Cheshire. Zara Matthews has had a superb season with the ball, and here she took three wickets to add to her total, conceding just six runs in eight overs in the process. Her fellow slow bowler Hannah Jones conceded just nine runs in eight overs, meaning that when the pair had completed their spells, Trinity were 15-3 after 16 overs. Jones would later have the honour of hitting the winning runs as the champagne bottles were uncorked. Meanwhile, this ended a difficult season for Stockport Trinity – they have followed up their 2016 and 2018 second division titles by finishing bottom of the first division in the following year each time.

Appleton 68-9 (40; Holly McCurrie 16, Amy Griffiths 2-1, Becky Cripwell 2-4, Ellie-Mae Davies 2-8) (5pts)

Porthill Park 69-7 (38.3; Grace Potts 23\*, Cripwell 20, Olivia Horsfield 4-15) (25pts)

- Porthill Park have enjoyed an excellent first season in the league by any measure, but the runners-up had to fight all the way for this one. Grace Potts remained at the crease to complete the win after Olivia Horsfield ripped through the Porthill middle order. Appleton finish fourth after their batting form dipped in the closing weeks. Porthill's Evelyn Jones played only five of the nine Porthill league matches that went ahead, as she juggled her commitments to Lancashire and Lancashire Thunder, but her CWCL batting record this season is: 138\*, 125, 80, 61\* and 20 – her one relative failure came when champions Didsbury emerged winners over the Newcastle-under-Lyme club. That delivery was bowled by Hannah Jones with Mishel Jeena completing the catch behind the stumps – it would have seemed like an important wicket at the time, but it may now go down as the delivery that most influenced the title race.

### **Division Two – September 1:**

Leigh 162-7 (32; Danielle Collins 75, Ellie Davey 47, Rebecca Scholes 3-25, Cleo Johnson 2-13) (25pts)  
Stockport Georgians 100-8 (32; Emma Capper 2-6, Collins 2-12, Gaby Crabb 2-19) (7pts)

- An opening stand of 143 set Leigh on the way to this latest victory and the win meant they only needed six more bonus points to see them over the line.

Upton 108-8 (35; Madi Arthur 27, Charlie Scudder 23, Ellie Grisdale 2-13) (25pts)  
Oxton 68 (Alexa Harrison 26, Sophie Morris 6-10) (5pts)

- Sophie Morris recorded the division's best figures of the season to see off local rivals Oxton, and at the time Upton were still mathematically in the hunt for the division two crown.

Nantwich 156-7 (35; Charlotte Neal 50\*, Hannah Bratt 38, Madi Hudson 28, Jen Regan 3-18) (25pts)  
Wistaston Village 74 (27.5; Katie Bennett 46, Bratt 3-18, Kelsey Barker 2-4, Charlotte Kirk 2-10) (6pts)

- Nantwich cannot now win the division but have plenty of reasons to be cheerful as their first season at this level draws to a close. Hannah Bratt took a hat-trick with her first three deliveries in this latest victory.

### **September 8:**

Nantwich 49 (29.2; Grace Michel 13, Emma Capper 2-6, Sophie Heaton 2-10) (1pt)  
Leigh 50-2 (19.4; Ellie Davey 23, Morganne Prince 2-4)

- Leigh wrapped up the division two title in some style, with all six of their bowlers taking wickets and conceding runs at less than two per over.

Stockport Georgians 269-5 (35; Liv Bell 102\*, Beth Garnett 93, Sylvia Christelow 2-40, Kate Chapman 2-41) (25pts)  
Appleton 2<sup>nd</sup> XI 38 (18.3; Abbey Gore 11, Tess Bailey 2-4) (3pts)

- A maiden century for Liv Bell and a career best for Beth Garnett, who fell just seven short of her own maiden ton, as Georgians turned on the style here.

Upton 140-8 (35; Charlie Scudder 40, Lily Scudder 34, Amanda Gettins 2-18, Jordi Matthews 2-21) (8pts)  
Ashton-on-Mersey 143-5 (34.5; Claire Anderton 70, Gettins 24\*, Sophie Morris 3-15) (25pts)

- The top five have been very evenly matched in this division this year, with some tense finishes, and here Ashton-on-Mersey got home with one ball to spare. The run chase was led by Claire Anderton, who made her league career best score, having been a prolific wicket taker in some previous seasons.

Oxton 122 (34.4; Hannah Kowalski 27, Alexa Harrison 27, Anna Bourne 3-14, Jen Regan 2-6, Bela Smith 2-13) (25pts)  
Wistaston Village 50 (26.2; Freya Davies 3-2, Harrison 2-10, Ellie Grisdale 2-16) (6pts)

- There were some fine bowling analyses on the Wistaston side but Oxton eventually ran out comfortable winners.

### **Division Three – August 29:**

Lymm Oughtrington Park 61-6 (20) (4pts)  
Woodley 65-2 (12.4) (25pts)

- Woodley's second commanding win over Lymm in the space of eight days for the division's leaders wrapped up their first divisional title- they have lost just one league match all year.

### **September 1:**

Hawarden Park (25pts) w/o Lymm Oughtrington Park (minus 10pts)

### **September 8:**

Hawarden Park 150-5 (30; Rachel Warrenger 72, Nicky Deane 23, Kat Axon 2-29) (25pts)  
Marple 78-7 (30; Freya Jones 123, Ela Closs-Sharpe 2-7) (5pts)

- Rachel Warrenger has had an excellent season and she was the difference between the sides here, with Hawarden now destined to finish second in division three.

## Division Four – August 25:

Chester Boughton Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> XI 157-3 (20; Nicky Deane 50ret, Mandy Humphreys 32, Hannah Thorley 24) (25pts)

Heaton Mersey & Cheadle 42 (12.3) (2pts)

(One of the Chester wickets was a retirement, so no bonus point is awarded to Heaton Mersey & Cheadle for this)

- A second league win of the year for Chester while Heaton Mersey & Cheadle still await their first victory

## September 8:

Lindow 80-9 (20; Jo Seddon 35, Charlie Waring 2-12, Mandy Harding 2-14, J Martindale 2-15) (25pts)

Chester Boughton Hall 52-5 (20; Gemma Rose 19\*, Claire Ashworth 4-15) (7pts)

- Another solid showing from Lindow to end their season. Information is still awaited on whether some matches will be re-arranged before they can be confirmed as the divisional champions.

The League Dinner will be on Saturday September 21, with attendees asked to arrive for 1900 to sit down for dinner at 1930. As last year's event was in Frodsham, we now return to the east of the county, and for the third time the event will be staged at Hazel Grove Golf Club in Stockport, a venue which has met with widespread approval on our two previous visits. The League will no longer be in a position to repeat the 'three free tickets for very six bought' offer but will once again freeze the ticket price at £20. The menu and order form have been circulated to club representatives. **As of 9pm Sunday there were six tickets still available, and once these have been sold it will be possible to book a place on the reserve list. A small number of people have booked tickets but not paid for these, so unless payment is received by Wednesday this week these will be offered for re-sale.**

The format will be similar to previous years and the three-course meal will be followed by the individual and team presentations and the disco.

Any under 16s must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

The next meeting of the League Committee will be on Wednesday October 9 and the Annual General Meeting will be Wednesday November 6. Both meetings are at Oakmere CC and commence at 1930.

Many of you will be aware that in the earlier part of the season when there is the Cheshire Cup and Shield and other men's club competitions also being played on Sundays it can be much more difficult to obtain a qualified umpire for a CWCL match. In recognition of this, the Cheshire Association of Cricket Officials is prepared to run a women's only umpiring course specifically for those with connections to the Women's League, with one of the principal tutors being Ingeborg Bevers who is a fully qualified umpire, scorer and tutor – she has previously umpired matches in the League and acted as scorer for Cheshire Women. Whether the course takes place is dependent on the level of interest – the Association says it would need around 10 to 12 participants to make it worthwhile. The course will require attendance for two full days over a weekend in November, late January or early February and the venue is likely to be either Oakmere CC or Toft CC. Anyone who wishes to make a definite commitment to help their club and the CWCL in this way, please contact Geoff Young at [curzon99@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:curzon99@tiscali.co.uk) or on 01352 755881 to register. Those who complete the course will also be able to umpire in Cheshire men's club cricket should they wish and would receive expenses for each match.

## Player loans:

Jo Seddon – Lindow to Woodley

Kate Chapman – Heaton Mersey & Cheadle to Appleton 2<sup>nd</sup> XI

Sophie Davies – Lymm Oughtrington Park to Appleton 2<sup>nd</sup> XI

Clubs are reminded that loan players can now make just three league loan appearances for the same club during the same season, so it is no longer possible to approve open-ended loans as may have been the case in previous seasons. Clubs are asked to be aware of how many league appearances each loan player has made to ensure this regulation is not breached.

The ECB's annual National Playing Survey is now live, and everyone is invited to complete this and [have their say on their experiences of playing cricket](#). Everyone who completes the survey will be entered into a draw to win £500 cash, a £100 Amazon voucher or tickets to the final Ashes Test.

## LANCASHIRE & CHESHIRE T20

All the matches scheduled for July 28 in this competition were cancelled due to rain and it was not possible to re-arrange any of these. Tottington St John's, one of the Lancashire League entrants, also disbanded their women's team during the course of the season. Based on the results of the matches that were played in April and early May, we now have a final between the top-ranked Cheshire League club (Didsbury) and the highest-placed Lancashire League club (Leyland). Didsbury bid for another trophy to add to their Cheshire League title when the two sides do battle at Northern CC on Merseyside this coming Sunday.

## LEAGUE TABLES

Division 1 (FINAL STANDINGS)	p	w	l	a	c	BatP	BowIP	NRR	Pts
<a href="#">Didsbury CC</a> (CH)	10	8	1	0	1	3	3	2.02	214
<a href="#">Porthill Park CC</a>	10	7	2	0	1	7	5	1.4	195
<a href="#">Oakmere CC</a>	10	5	4	1	0	11	20	-0.17	164
<a href="#">Appleton CC</a>	10	5	5	0	0	11	14	-0.04	150
<a href="#">Chester Boughton Hall CC</a>	10	2	8	0	0	15	24	-1.17	89
<a href="#">Stockport Trinity CC</a>	10	1	8	1	0	23	16	-1.89	72

Division 2	p	w	wcn	l	lcn	c	BatP	BowIP	NRR	Pts
<a href="#">Leigh CC</a> (CH)	14	9	1	3	0	1	10	8	1.72	276
<a href="#">Ashton-on-Mersey CC</a>	14	7	0	3	0	4	8	10	0.47	225
<a href="#">Upton CC</a>	13	5	2	5	0	1	13	18	0.14	214
<a href="#">Oxton CC</a>	13	6	1	6	0	0	13	18	0.27	206
<a href="#">Nantwich CC</a>	13	5	1	4	0	3	6	11	0.28	191
<a href="#">Stockport Georgians CC</a>	13	3	2	6	0	2	15	19	-0.08	175
<a href="#">Appleton CC</a> 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	14	3	1	3	4	3	2	9	-1.44	95
<a href="#">Wistaston Village CC</a>	14	0	0	8	4	2	17	25	-2.54	18

Division 3	p	w	wcn	l	lcn	BatP	BowIP	NRR	Pts
<a href="#">Woodley CC</a> (CH)	10	9	0	1	0	4	0	2.23	229
<a href="#">Hawarden Park CC</a>	11	6	2	2	1	10	3	1.81	203
<a href="#">Didsbury CC</a> 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	11	4	2	5	0	7	12	-1.21	169
<a href="#">Marple CC</a>	8	1	1	5	1	12	13	-0.91	65
<a href="#">Lymm Oughtrington Park CC</a>	10	0	0	7	3	7	6	-3.53	-17

Division 4	p	w	l	c	BatP	BowIP	NRR	Pts
<a href="#">Lindow CC</a>	9	6	1	2	4	3	0.88	173
<a href="#">Chester Boughton Hall CC</a> 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	5	2	1	2	2	5	2.31	73
<a href="#">Marple CC</a> 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	4	2	2	0	9	8	-0.1	67
Heaton Mersey & <a href="#">Cheadle</a>	6	0	6	0	19	8	-2.36	27

(Division 3 and 4 tables do not include some matches for which a result has not yet been notified)

## **SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE CRICKET**

MCC 118-8 (40; Eloise Porter 20, Ellie-Mae Davies 2-3, Emily Stones 2-12, Molly Price 2-12, Gillian Spragg 2-33)  
Cheshire Women's Cricket League XI 120-6 (35.1; Roshini Prince-Navaratnam 44, Kate Harvey 23, Carys White 21, Danielle Warren 3-20)

After last year's nailbiting one-wicket win, this win over the MCC was achieved with a degree of comfort, with four wickets and 29 balls in hand, and this included three wickets which fell just before the end and made the match look closer than it had been.

This was the youngest side the CWCL's representative team has fielded so far, but it contained some very exciting prospects. This description most certainly applies to the Porthill Park duo of Emily Stones and Ellie-Mae Davies, and here Stones bowled a brisk and penetrating opening spell where she obtained significant lateral movement, before she returned for a second spell at the end to finish with fine figures of 2-12 in eight overs.

Davies is the leading wicket-taker in the league's first division this year, and she certainly transferred her league form to the bigger stage with a flawless six-over spell that produced two wickets and only three runs conceded. The third Porthill player in the team, Georgia Norman, took one catch off the bowling of each of her two clubmates.

Molly Price is another exciting young talent who didn't look out of place in the second division of the senior county championship when she made her Cheshire debut at only 15 years of age last year. Once again, the Chester Boughton Hall starlet bowled superbly in this fixture, recording 2-12 in seven overs.

The MCC batsmen were never really able to accelerate - their top score was just 20, made by Eloise Porter. Gillian Spragg returned as captain of the League XI this year, having previously led the team in the very first MCC fixture back in 2009, and in the closing overs she also got amongst the wickets, with both her victims coming via stumpings by her Stockport Trinity clubmate Carys White.

So lunch was taken with the League XI in a strong position, and the good work continued as Roshini Prince-Navaratnam and Kate Harvey added 51 for the first wicket. It took a fine slip catch from MCC captain Bev Nicholson to finally make the breakthrough, ending Harvey's innings of 23.

White was able to bat in the same number four position as when she made her matchwinning knock of 86 not out in this fixture last year, an innings of such maturity that one sometimes forgets she is still a teenager herself. On this occasion though she was able to play with more freedom, with less than 70 needed when she arrived at the crease, and there were some fine strokes in her 21 from 22 deliveries.

Prince-Navaratnam batted through the first 31 overs, playing a vital anchor role, and was just starting to unleash her repertoire of shots when she fell for 44. Many League bowling attacks have been on the receiving end of her destructive batting capabilities in recent years, so while this was an atypical knock from the Didsbury opener it was a no less worthy contribution – this score was made in challenging batting conditions and her effort was almost double the score managed by any other player on either side.

Dani Warren claimed three wickets in an accurate spell as the Cheshire batters edged towards the target, but if there were any doubts starting to creep in the League XI still had a very capable number seven in the shape of Stones, and it was her who struck the winning boundary at the start of the 36th over.

#### Ball-By-Ball Scorecard

#### Summary Scorecard

The League extends its thanks to all the players and scorers, hosts Marple CC and umpires Graham Pugh and Derek Barnett.

League XI team:

Gillian Spragg (Stockport Trinity, captain), Carys White, Kate Harvey (both Stockport Trinity), Roshini Prince-Navaratnam (Didsbury), Ellie Davey (Leigh), Emily Stones, Ellie-Mae Davies, Georgia Norman (all Porthill Park), Molly Price (Chester Boughton Hall), Liv Bell (Stockport Georgians), Hailey Coutts (Oakmere).

Additional fielders: Kat Axon, Freya Jones (both Marple). Scorers: Rosie Davis (Didsbury), Ray Bell (Stockport Georgians)

The MCC team featured three current league players: Stockport Trinity's Sarah McCann, Ashton-on-Mersey's Sarah Sutcliffe and Nantwich's Morganne Prince, alongside former Trinity and Cheshire stalwart Jennie Kitinger.

This was the tenth anniversary of the first match between the CWCL and the MCC, and as one match was cancelled, this was also the 10th time the two teams had contested the annual fixture. The League made some significant changes back in 2007, and two years later was seeking new ways to showcase the advances it had made in a short period of time and landing an annual fixture with MCC was something of a coup at that time. McCann and Sutcliffe appeared for the League XI in that first match, alongside Spragg as captain, Emma Barlow, Claire Waterhouse, Kim Challis, Nicola Capes, Coral Murphy, Lydia Slack, Anni Rashid and Jemma Bentley.

In the intervening decade the fixture has become one of the undisputed highlights of the Cheshire cricket calendar and also a match in which many of the MCC squad are happy to travel long distances to experience. The first match featured fully capped England internationals Enid Bakewell, Caroline Atkins and Stephanie Davies. In 2014 and other years a number of players from England's second-string Academy squad have turned out for MCC in the Cheshire fixture, and last year the League was very privileged to welcome women's cricket legend Claire Taylor, a winner of two World Cups who became the first woman to be named as a Wisden Cricketer of the Year.

In all but one of the ten matches, the majority of the League eleven were experiencing the atmosphere of an MCC fixture for the first time. 71 players, representing 16 different clubs, have played for the League in this fixture, and this rises to 83 players and 17 clubs when one includes the additional fielders used.

Eight fantastic servants of the League and its member clubs have been given the honour of acting as captain in this fixture: Spragg, Capes, McCann, Emma Barlow, Leesa Mellon, Laura MacLeod, Dawn Prestidge and Ali Cutler.

Seven players have appeared for both sides in the last decade: Spragg, McCann, Sutcliffe, Murphy, Salma Bi, Kate Coppack and Natalie Lyons.

The 71 players used by the League XI included future international superstar Sophie Ecclestone, who was the youngest to be selected at just 13 years old in the 2012 fixture. The league's elder stateswoman Carol Ingham then appeared in the following year's line-up. This really illustrates the variety of the various League XI selections: players of all ages, players from senior and junior county squads, experienced figures whose county days were behind them, and other superb servants of League clubs for whom the MCC match experience was the only representative match they ever played.

The highest score achieved by a League XI batsman is Laura MacLeod's 141 in 2014. Using the normal method of ranking bowling performances, where the number of wickets taken is the first criterion, the League XI's best bowling performance is three for 21 from 10 overs by Anni Rashid last year. This year's performance of two wickets for three runs by Ellie-Mae Davies is certainly the only occasion when a League bowler has recorded an economy rate of 0.5 from an extended spell.

Besides Marple, the past decade has seen seven other clubs host the match: Chester Boughton Hall, Neston, Oakmere, Didsbury, Wistaston Village, Ashton-on-Mersey and Romiley.



## **Kia Super League – August 28:**

Surrey Stars 132-1 (9; Lizelle Lee 75, Natalie Sciver 50\*)

Lancashire Thunder 97-9 (9; Tahlia McGrath 41, Hannah Jones 3-24, Bryony Smith 2-8)

- After the rain reduced this to nine overs per side, everything seemed set up for a spectacular show from Surrey's South African star Lizelle Lee – the reduced length of the innings, the small boundaries that are now commonplace in elite women's cricket, and Lancashire's spin-dominated attack. Lee duly responded with an amazing 75 from 34 deliveries with 13 fours and three sixes, meaning only seven of her runs did not come via boundaries. Her innings managed to overshadow a 26-ball half-century from Natalie Sciver that included six fours and three sixes – again only eight of her runs were not from fours or sixes. In reply, Tahlia McGrath scored 41 from 19 deliveries and the final Thunder total represented a scoring rate of almost 11 per over that they would surely have been happy with had they batted first
- The Super League and the Lancashire Thunder team in its current form have now ended, and next year there will be a new structure for elite domestic women's cricket. A Lancashire team will continue to contest the T20 County Championship in May and June, a Manchester Originals team will play in the new Hundred tournament in July and August and a new north-west England regional team – that will be linked to the Originals – will contest a 50 over tournament in August and September.