

## **League welcomes new teams, fixtures announced, new regulations, new partnership with Lancashire for the Cheshire seniors ...**

### **NEW TEAMS**

The League welcomes Langley CC as a new member. The Macclesfield club will field a women's team in Division 4 and in the Development Knockout Cup this year. Another new team is a 2<sup>nd</sup> XI at Stockport Georgians, and again this team will play in Division 4 and in the Development Knockout Cup.

### **FIXTURES**

Fixtures for the CWCL and its associated cup competitions have been circulated to club representatives and have been uploaded to Play Cricket. Captains, coaches, managers etc. should check your own club's fixtures and advise any discrepancies ASAP. The dates on the two sheets of the document should match, and these should also reflect the fixtures listed on Play Cricket. There should also be no date clashes between a club's 1st XI and 2nd XI, except for the fixtures marked as a double header on May 10. All of these matches can be re-arranged by mutual consent. However, from April 19 onwards, division 1 and 2 matches can only be re-arranged due to ground availability, or because one of the teams progresses to the later rounds of the National KO. Please advise of any new dates and finally please don't re-arrange anything for August 9 (Finals Day).

Didsbury's defence of their first ever League Championship triumph starts at Oakmere on April 26. Leigh are newly promoted to a seven-team top-flight and play their first ever Division 1 match at home to Oakmere on May 3.

Woodley start their defence of the Division 3 title at Lindow on May 17, with Woodley playing cup matches on the preceding two Sundays. Lindow are new to division 3 after winning Division 4 this year and open their 2020 campaign at Wistaston Village on April 26.

As for the newcomers in Division 4, Langley start on April 26 when they entertain Lymm Oughtrington Park. Stockport Georgians' new development team play Chester's second string on May 10.

### **REGULATIONS**

The following changes were approved after receiving an endorsement from the majority of league officers and club representatives who attended the Rules Meeting in early January.

#### Competition Structures

- Division 2 will involve each team playing the others on three occasions (as opposed to two in 2019)
- Division 3 will involve each team playing the others on two occasions (as opposed to three in 2019)
- Division 4 will involve each team playing the others on two occasions (as opposed to three in 2019)

#### Match Regulations

- The retirement score for batsmen in the T20 Divisional Competition and the Senior Knockout Cup was raised to 30. (It remains at 25 in the Development Knockout Cup)
- Law 41.7 will apply in the sense that if an umpire considers a non-pitching delivery - or a series of non-pitching deliveries - to be dangerous, they will issue a warning. They will not issue a warning to the bowler in question if the delivery is not judged to be dangerous. The League regulations also still allow for a bowler to receive a first warning and then a final warning before a bowler is suspended on bowling a third dangerous delivery. *(This change addresses a previous discrepancy where the league regulations were possibly stricter than*

*the Laws, in that they instructed umpires to issue a warning for every non-pitching delivery above waist height)*

- Bowlers in division 3 will now be permitted to bowl just one-fifth of the overs in an innings, i.e. four in a 20 over match and six in a 30 over match. *(Bowlers in division 4 can still bowl one-quarter of the total overs)*
- Pink balls will be used in all weekday Division 3 and 4 matches. *(This was introduced to facilitate more cricket being played in fading light).*

#### Results Communications

- Division 1 & 2 clubs must post a full scorecard on Play Cricket for each of their home matches within five days of the match. This includes a requirement for the home team to input both innings and the names of the players on both sides. The away team is then expected to check the accuracy and completeness of the scorecard
- Division 3 & 4 clubs must either follow the above procedure or send a completed and signed official results sheet to the Results Secretary to arrive within five days of the match.
- This is essentially the procedure that operated in 2019 but is now an official part of the regulations
- Karen Prince retains her role as Results Secretary, although it remains the case that division 1 & 2 teams need to upload full scorecards for their home matches, while many division 3 & 4 teams are now also doing the same. Karen remains available to help any club with queries regarding how to input their results

#### **SENIOR KNOCKOUT DRAW (first named teams at home)**

Round 1:

- A - Upton v Wistaston Swans
- B - Stockport Georgians v Chester Boughton Hall Deemons
- C - Woodley v Nantwich Vipers
- D - Marple v Ashton-on-Mersey
- E - Oakmere Kats v Appleton Tigers

Quarter Finals:

- 1 - Porthill v Winner C
- 2 - Stockport Trinity Fire v Winner D
- 3 - Winner E v Winner A
- 4 - Winner B v Didsbury Swordettes

Semi Finals:

- Winner 1 v Winner 2
- Winner 3 v Winner 4

#### **DEVELOPMENT KNOCKOUT DRAW (first named teams at home)**

Round 1:

- A - Lymm Lightning v Lindow
- B - Chester BH 2nd XI v Langley
- C - Marple v Didsbury 2nd

Quarter Finals:

- 1 - Winner A v Winner B
- 2 - Winner C v Stockport Georgians 2nd
- 3 - Heaton Mersey & Cheadle v Hawarden Park
- 4 - Woodley v Wistaston Swans

Semi Finals:

- Winner 1 v Winner 2
- Winner 3 v Winner 4

## **NATIONAL KNOCKOUT**

Didsbury could face some familiar foes in the National T20 this year. After a first-round bye, they host Blackpool, with the winners then being at home to Leyland. Yorkshire club Sessay are once again in the opposite half of the draw, so it could be the case that Didsbury will contest a regional final at Sessay for the third consecutive year.

Porthill Park travel to Wolverhampton in round one with the winners playing away at Midlands Premier club JG Meakins.

## **CHESHIRE CLUB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The CWCL has been offered the opportunity to merge into the existing Cheshire County men's league. We hope that this co-operation arrangement will benefit the League in areas such as provision of match balls, appointment of umpires and disciplinary matters. In due course, two individuals will be sought to represent the CWCL on the six-member Executive Committee. The CWCL will keep its existing brand name and the Women's league officers and club representatives will still have the final say over issues such as changes to competition structures and match regulations.

## **NEXT MEETING**

It is extremely important that the captain (or vice-captain) of each League team attends the Captains' Briefing at Lymm Oughtrington Park CC on March 25 at 1830. Some very important information will be communicated, and important documents and equipment will be handed out. There will be free pizza for all who attend this meeting.

A full meeting of the League Committee will then take place at 1930 immediately after the Captains Briefing.

It is unclear exactly how much the League will be able to offer to clubs in Small Grants funding, but in order to be eligible for any grant money, clubs need to have been represented at this meeting and at the November 2019 AGM and the January 2020 Rules Meeting.

## **GROUND HOSTS**

Unfortunately, various issues prevent some of the League's teams from enjoying unrestricted access to their club's main ground on some Sundays. The League would therefore like to hear from any clubs within the wider Cheshire cricket fraternity who may not yet be ready to operate their own women's team but who could be able to host one or more of the CWCL's Sunday matches.

## **UMPIRES & SCORERS**

The first sessions of Cheshire's first women's only umpiring course have already taken place. Anyone else wishing to learn about being a match official can attend the other umpires and scorers courses taking place in Cheshire in the coming weeks.

Ed Norman is the League's new Umpires & Scorers Representative, with John Bone stepping down from his role, with the committee's sincere thanks. All other League Officers were re-elected at the AGM in November.

## **OTHER NEWS**

Ashton-on-Mersey CC not only gave their annual Champagne Moment award to one of their women's team, but it was also reported in The Cricketer magazine. Jordi Matthews took a hat-trick for the men's second team on a Saturday and the Shropshire all-rounder followed it up by repeating the feat in a CWCL match the following day.

At the same time as the new England Women's Senior Academy squad was announced, the ECB also issued a list of players who will figure in separate Training Squads and a Spin Bowling Group. The former includes Olivia Thomas, one of the players loaned to Cheshire by Lancashire during this

year's County T20. The spin bowling section of the academy includes a CWCL player in Porthill Park's Ilenia Sims.

Users of Play Cricket are reminded that they can choose how many, or how few, messages they receive via this site. The steps to follow to manage this are:

- Log in to their Play Cricket account
- Go to the drop-down menu – at the top of the screen, next to your name – and select Edit Account
- Select Edit ECB Login Details
- Select the communications you would like to receive

## SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE CRICKET

The League XI will play the MCC on Thursday August 13

## CHESHIRE SENIORS

Following discussion over the winter between the representatives of the Cheshire and Lancashire women's county teams, it has been decided that Cheshire Women's County Cricket Club (CWCCC) will be run by Lancashire Cricket Board for this coming season. This was a unanimous decision taken by the Cheshire WCCC committee members, the chair of selectors and the 2019 Cheshire captain.

The discussion with Lancashire came about after the current CWCCC committee advised that they could no longer put in the required time to run a County team. In addition several players gave notice that they no longer wished to play. Cheshire conceded its last two matches in 2019 due to player availability issues, indicating that having a Cheshire team was not sustainable in its current form. The agreement with Lancashire is that the Cheshire team will be selected on a 50/50 basis and that will provide Cheshire with a stronger team. We believe this is the best way forward for our elite and aspiring players, and are pleased to see that when appointed, the new North West Women's Performance Director will work with Cheshire, Lancashire and Cumbria.

Players interested in representing Cheshire in 2020 should make Sarah McCann aware of their interest.

The current CWCCC committee will retain their positions and oversee the transition. CWCCC will retain its status throughout and therefore this agreement can be reversed in the future, if that is deemed to be in the best interests of Cheshire's players.

Representation from Cheshire and Cumbria county cricket will be part of an advisory group which will oversee the new North West Regional Centre. The North West will take part in an eight-team regional 50-over tournament in August and September that will replace the 50-over Women's County Championship.

Cheshire's fixtures in Division 3B of the County T20 are:

May	8	Cumbria	H (Warrington)	1100
	8	Derbyshire	H (Warrington)	1500
	25	Shropshire	A	1100
	25	Cumbria	Shropshire venue	1500
June	7	Derbyshire	Cumbria venue	1100
	7	Shropshire	Cumbria venue	1500
	21	Additional matches based on Cheshire's ranking in the division		Derbyshire venue 1100 & 1500

Friday May 8 and Monday May 25 are both Bank Holidays this year.

## **THE WIDER WORLD OF WOMEN'S CRICKET**

The recent T20 World Cup Final between Australia and India attracted an attendance of 86,174, which represents the world record crowd for a standalone women's cricket event. The attendance record for women's sport is 90,185 for the 1999 football World Cup final between USA and China.

Sophie Ecclestone's performances in the tournament have propelled her to number one in the international T20 bowling rankings.

The new Manchester Originals team, which will include Ecclestone, will play two of their three matches at Old Trafford. The key dates here are Monday July 27, when the Originals play Trent Rockets at 1500; and Friday July 31, when London Spirit are the visitors. With the Originals being the only north-west England franchise, their opening match, against Oval Invincibles, is at Sedbergh in Cumbria – this takes place on Friday July 24, starting at 1700. The two matches at Old Trafford are double-headers with the Manchester men's team.