

## **Murray Smith Cheshire County League results on Saturday, August 10th**

**ECB Premier Division:** Hyde 154-7 (D. Fitzsimmons 71, E. McCray 4-71, S. Wilkinson 3-28) Bramhall 225-6 dec. (R. Green 125, P. Gould 37, R. Driver 3-46). Drawn: Bramhall 9 pts., Hyde 8.

Oulton Park 198-9 dec. (J. Whittaker 78, D. Jones 3-54, S. Marshall 3-74); Neston 144-9 (S. Marshall 67, C. Jones 5-37). Drawn: Oulton Park 13 pts., Neston 9.

Cancelled games (all 7 pts.): Alderley Edge v Bowdon; Chester Boughton Hall v Didsbury; Grappenhall v Macclesfield; Nantwich v Cheadle Hulme.

**First Division:** Congleton 98-5 (A. Dale 43) Birkenhead Park 97-9 (T. Hunter 33). Congleton 20 pts., Birkenhead Park 3;

Upton 129-1 (I. Potter 56no, N. Rivett 30no) Widnes 128 (P. Catterall 40, S. McGowan 4-37, L. Dixon 3-37). Upton won by 9 wickets: 25 – 3 pts.

Cancelled games (all 7 pts.): Alsager v Brooklands; Heaton Mersey v Toft; Stockport Georgians v Urmston; Warrington v Oxton.

**Second Division:** Irby 159-7 dec. (D. Newman 41, A. Barr 3-59) Christleton 111-5 (S. Hadnam 67no). Drawn: Irby 9 pts., Christleton 6.

Cancelled games (all 7 pts.): Cheadle v Marple; Mobberley v Bredbury St. Mark's; Poynton v Winnington Park; Sale v Cholmondeley; Timperley v Alvanley.

## **Cup results on Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup>**

### ***Fred Graham Trophy quarter-finals:***

Didsbury v Birkenhead Park: Birkenhead 95 (P. Sperring 3-8); Didsbury 96-3 (T. Burnett 34). Didsbury won by 7 wickets

Poynton v Hyde: Poynton 190-5 (I. Middlehurst 109no, R. Clarke 33no); Hyde 141-8 (S. Heaney 40, D. Thompson 4-16). Poynton won by 49 runs.

Bowdon v Bredbury St. Mark's; Macclesfield v Urmston both postponed to Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup>.

Semi-final draw (Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup>): Didsbury (holders) v Poynton; Bowdon or Bredbury v Macclesfield or Urmston.

### ***Quinn Thomas Cheshire Cup semi-finals:***

Upton 89 G. Dixon 24, M. Wilkie 4-16) New Brighton 89-5 (M. Evans 30no, G. Dixon 3-15). New Brighton won by 5 wickets.

Wallasey 116 Widnes 117-7. Widnes won by 3 wickets.

New Brighton won toss for choice of ground for final on Sunday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, may not be able to stage game at Rake Lane as pitch is due to be dug up late August. Venue decision pending.

### ***ECB National 50 Plus County championship quarter-final (at Neston):***

Cheshire 160-4 (44 overs); Channel Islands 145 (41 overs). Cheshire won by 4 runs as Islands' target was reduced to 149 after rain stoppage.

### ***Cheshire Under 21s Cup semi-final:***

Grappenhall 160-8 Romiley 71 (A. Brady 3-7). Grappenhall won by 89 runs.

Neston v Grappenhall meet in final on Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. Clubs to toss for choice of ground.

### ***Quinn Thomas Cheshire Shield semi-finals:***

Ashton on Mersey 113-9 Barrow 116-4. Barrow won by 6 wickets.

Burnage v Middlewich postponed to Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup>.

Final is on Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, finalists to toss for choice of grounds.

## ONLY FIVE GAMES SURVIVE RAIN

THE season's worst spell of the season saw only five out of 18 games played in the **Murray Smith Cheshire County League**, with two winners in the First Division where Upton knocked Widnes out of the promotion frame and Congleton deepened Birkenhead Park's relegation problems.

In the *ECB Premier League* where only two matches were started, Oulton Park failed to break their home duck when their inability to part Neston's last pair, skipper Dave Collyer and Dave Jones cost them 10 additional points which would have boosted their title ambitions.

As it was Oulton to be content with 13 points from a game which started on time in dry weather, and finished in gloom seven hours later. Batting after tea, Neston were reduced to 144-9 (Simon Marshall 67, Chris Jones 5-37) after Park had posted 198-9 declared, Jason Whittaker 78. Leg spinners Dave Jones and Marshall shared six of the Oulton wickets bowling 36 of the 55 overs delivered.

In a match at Werneth Low in which the start was delayed until 4.15 p.m. permitting the minimum of 60 overs' play, Bramhall rattled up 225-6 in 35 at 6.43 runs per over with a rapid 125 by Richard Green, his third century of the season. Hyde were left with 25 overs and reached 154-7 (6.2 per over), Dave Fitzsimmons 71, Ewan McCray 4-71. Bramhall took nine points and Hyde eight to render the efforts of Peter Hardman and his groundstaff worthwhile.

The effect of the points gained in these two games is to close up the top four clubs to within 16 points. Leaders Bowdon still have a match in hand, however, which will be played on Bank Holiday Monday against Alderley Edge.

The bottom two Grappenhall and Cheadle Hulme, whose games were rained off against Macclesfield and Nantwich respectively, remain locked together on 103 points, 63 adrift of Chester Boughton Hall, 10<sup>th</sup>, who had their second successive match washed out.

### **Oxton's lucky day**

In *Division One*, Widnes managed to bank only three points from a nine wickets defeat at Upton and forfeited second place to Oxton, whose cancelled match at Warrington earned them seven – and a leg up back into the second promotion spot.

Last time beaten nine games ago on June 15<sup>th</sup>, Widnes were dismissed for 128, Phil Catterall 40, Simon McGowan 4-37 and 15 year-old Lee Dixon 3-37. Upton went on to win comfortably with Ian Potter and Nick Rivett unbeaten on 56 and 30 respectively.

Congleton eased to a five wickets home win against Birkenhead Park, who laboured for the maximum 53 overs to reach 97-9, Tim Hunter 33. Adrian Dale hit 43 in Congleton's winning response. Park are now 47 points adrift of 10<sup>th</sup> placed Brooklands and can be said to be in a tight spot.

All other matches were cancelled.

### **Only Irby start**

The only fixture to beat the weather in *Division Two* saw Irby emerge with a 9-7 draw at home to Christleton, which makes little difference to their promotion prospects, leaving them 23 adrift of second-placed Winnington Park. In a 66 overs match, Dave Newman top-scored with 41 out of 159-7 and Christleton reached 111-5, Aussie Scott Hadnam contributing not out 67.

With only five games now remaining, the foot of the table sees Alvanley 20 points adrift of next-up Cholmondeley, who trail Mobberley by one.

A forthcoming fixture which might settle a couple of issues is Alvanley v Cholmondeley on August 31<sup>st</sup>.

## Murray Smith Cheshire County League tables to August 10th

ECB Premier League	P	W	T	D	A/C	L	Bat	Bowl	Pts.
BOWDON	16	9	0	3	1	3	47	41	281
MACCLESFIELD	17	8	0	5	1	3	51	47	275
HYDE	17	10	0	4	1	2	21	30	266
OULTON PARK	17	6	0	6	0	5	86	47	265
DIDSBURY	17	9	0	2	1	5	30	26	247
BRAMHALL	17	8	0	4	1	4	44	28	247
NANTWICH	17	5	0	5	1	6	45	45	207
NESTON	17	5	0	5	1	6	38	48	203
ALDERLEY EDGE	16	5	0	3	1	7	41	46	200
* CHESTER B. HALL	17	4	0	5	2	6	28	42	169
GRAPPENHALL	17	1	0	2	2	12	28	37	103
* CHEADLE HULME	17	0	0	3	3	11	39	38	103

\* Points deducted for slow over rates: Chester Boughton Hall 5; Cheadle Hulme 1

First Division	P	W	T	D	A/C	L	Bat	Bowl	Pts.
URMSTON	17	8	0	7	1	1	32	43	256
* OXTON	17	7	0	6	2	2	41	38	242
WIDNES	17	7	0	5	0	5	56	35	241
* WARRINGTON	17	7	0	2	3	5	32	28	223
UPTON	17	6	0	6	1	4	39	44	222
CONGLETON	17	4	0	7	0	6	86	42	222
ALSAGER	17	4	0	8	2	3	58	37	205
HEATON MERSEY	17	6	0	2	4	5	22	28	202
TOFT	17	5	0	6	1	5	43	38	200
BROOKLANDS	17	3	0	3	2	9	49	43	172
STOCKPORT GEO.	17	3	0	5	1	8	52	35	164
BIRKENHEAD PARK	17	3	0	4	0	10	16	41	125

\* Points deducted for slow over rates: Oxtton 3; Warrington 2

Second Division	P	W	T	D	C/A	L	Bat	Bowl	Pts.
POYNTON	17	11	0	5	1	0	77	37	351
WINNINGTON PARK	17	9	0	4	2	2	36	30	268
IRBY	17	7	0	9	0	1	51	36	245
BREDBURY ST. M.	17	5	0	6	2	4	68	39	233
* MARPLE	17	9	0	1	1	6	17	36	222
CHEADLE	17	8	0	2	2	5	12	31	221
TIMPERLEY	17	4	0	4	2	7	56	38	196
CHRISTLETON	17	4	0	7	1	5	46	45	192
SALE	17	4	0	4	2	7	45	33	180
MOBBERLEY	17	2	0	6	2	7	44	40	150
CHOLMONDELEY	17	1	0	3	2	11	67	42	149
ALVANLEY	17	1	0	4	2	10	41	46	129

\* 20 pts. deducted for breach of Under 19 fast bowling directive.

### LEAGUE FIXTURES ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 17th

**ECB Premier League (12.30 p.m.):** Bowdon v Chester Boughton Hall; Bramhall v Nantwich; Cheadle Hulme v Macclesfield; Didsbury v Hyde; Neston v Alderley Edge; Oulton Park v Grappenhall.

**First Division (1 p.m.):** Brooklands v Birkenhead Park; Oxtton v Alsager; Toft v Warrington; Upton v Congleton; Urmston v Heaton Mersey; Widnes v Stockport Georgians.

**Second Division (1 p.m.):** Alvanley v Mobberley; Bredbury St. Mark's v Irby; Christleton v Cholmondeley; Marple v Timperley; Poynton v Sale; Winnington Park v Cheadle.

### CUP FIXTURES ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 18th

**Fred Graham Trophy quarter-finals (1 p.m.):** Bowdon v Bredbury St. Mark's; Macclesfield v Urmston.  
**Taylor Insurances 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Trophy final (1 p.m.):** Chester Boughton Hall v Bramhall (at Chester).