

COUNTY LEAGUE NEWS

on behalf of Cheshire Clubs Cricket Committee (4 Cs)



AUTUMN 2018

End of season edition

League Dinner & Awards Night

ACO national conference

It's a draw! - the 2018 picture

PLUS

Duckworth Lewis Stern - why the time is
right for Cheshire Cricket

and Tributes to Glyn Roberts



VIVIO

CHESHIRE COUNTY CRICKET LEAGUE

COUNTY LEAGUE DINNER AND AWARDS

Friday October 5th saw a fitting celebration of an excellent 2018 season at Toft C.C.

Spearheaded by chairman Nigel Muirhead, Toft laid on a wonderful evening for some 300 guests, with a spacious marquee, a small army of staff serving food and on duty at the specially extended bar, and a generous array of prizes supplied by County League sponsors Vivio for the raffle.

The format of the evening was notably different from previous years, with trophy awards being interspersed between food courses, which proved to be an effective way of giving due attention to the many winners who rightly enjoyed their moment in the spotlight. Nigel's effervescent performance as (joint) master of ceremonies struck just the right balance as the evening moved through to plan and to time, with plenty of enjoyment and laughter, as well as celebration.

League President Mike Talbot-Butler, sadly not able to attend, sent a message

of good wishes and congratulations which set the evening off positively. Vivio's CEO James Wright also addressed the gathering, encouraging take-up of the Vivio range of products and services for individuals and businesses, and was thanked by all for the invaluable sponsorship Vivio provide.

With the players of the year for each division only being revealed on the night, the three recipients all received hearty applause for their achievements. The same could not be said for MC Muirhead, however, after making a complete horlicks of the 'heads and tails' competition which got him the bird from disgruntled patrons and a forthright rebuke from guest David Ivon Gower, to the great amusement of all present! Gower himself proved to be an excellent choice for speaker, reliving a few of the many highlights of his career with wit and style and being happy to pose for dozens of photos afterwards.



Above: MC Rob Sproston
Left: Ivor and Norman, the consummate pros!



Left: Ray Doyle of Nantwich receives the ECB CCCL Premier League trophy from David Gower. Ray re-lived Nantwich's dramatic last day win which saw them hold off a strong challenge from Chester BH, as well as the 1st XI's progress all the way to National T20 Finals Day. Nantwich also lost out to Oulton Park in the Cheshire Cup final by virtue of OP having lost fewer wickets after a level scores draw, but with the league trophy won, and with Nantwich 2s also winning their Premier Division, it was a season to remember for the Dabbers.

COUNTY LEAGUE DINNER AND AWARDS

Major Award Winners 2018 - Players

YOUNG PLAYER OF THE YEAR
The John North Trophy
Jamie Crawley (Chester B.H. CC)



427 league runs at 38.82 (13 inns)
2 x 100; 2 x 50
and 173 for Cheshire v Hertfordshire

ECB PREMIER LEAGUE PLAYER OF THE YEAR
The Keith Belfield Memorial Trophy
Ash Davis (Neston CC)



66 league wkts at 13.82; 6 x 5 wkt hauls
Took 39% of Neston's league wickets
141 league runs and 6 catches

DIVISION ONE PLAYER OF THE YEAR
The Mark Alcroft Trophy
Khalid Sawas (Macclesfield CC)



890 league runs at 59.33 (18 inns)
3 x 100; 4 x 50
11 catches

DIVISION TWO PLAYER OF THE YEAR
The Mike Talbot-Butler Statuette
Alexander (A.J.) Hart (Brooklands CC)



44 league wkts at 14.75
391 league runs at 24.44 (19 inns)
3 x 50

PERFORMANCE OF THE MONTH WINNERS
Award sponsored by Joseph Holt Brewery

April/May - Calum Turner (Urmston CC) 202 v Oxtou*

June - Kevin Carroll (Brooklands CC) 170 v Weaverham

*July - Jordan Richards (Stockport Georgians CC 2nd XI)
6.4 - 4 - 6 - 6 v Brooklands 2nd XI*

*August/Sept - Ian Linwood (Upton CC)
10.5 - 6 - 28 - 9 v Davenham*

Major Award Winners 2018 - Clubs

FAIR PLAY AWARD
The Eddie Howard Memorial Shield
Bramhall CC



MOST IMPROVED CLUB OF THE YEAR: The Henderson Rose Bowl
Upton CC



Major Award Winner 2018 - Officials

UMPIRE OF THE YEAR
The Terry Hill Memorial Trophy
Martin Roberts
(receiving his award from Umpires
Chairman Ian Greensmith)



2018 Season Honours List	
1st XI ECB Premier League (2nd year 2nd trophy):	NANTWICH
1st XI Division One (Pudsey Trophy):	HYDE
1st XI Division Two (Mark Alcroft Trophy):	BROOKLANDS
2nd XI Premier League (1st trophy):	NANTWICH
2nd XI Division One (Pudsey Trophy):	CHEADLE
2nd XI Division Two (George Henderson Trophy):	BOWLEY
1st XI 2nd XI Aggregate winners (Sunday League):	NANTWICH
1st XI Sunday Premier League (Pudsey Trophy):	DIDSBURY
2nd XI Sunday Premier League (Pudsey Trophy):	ROFT
1st XI Sunday League Division 1 (1st trophy):	NESTON
2nd XI Sunday League Division 1 (1st trophy):	STOCKPORT GEORGIANS
1st XI Sunday League Division 2 (1st trophy):	URMSTON
2nd XI Sunday League Division 2 (1st trophy):	CHEADLE HULME LADYBRIDGE
Joseph Holt Brewery 1st XI First Class (1st trophy):	NANTWICH
Joseph Holt Brewery 2nd XI 1st XI Trophy:	NESTON
Joseph Holt Brewery 2nd XI 2nd XI Trophy:	DIDSBURY
Over 40s Control Group (Ron Birtle Memorial Trophy):	GRAPPENHALL
Over 40s North-East Group (50 Bowls Shield):	CHEADLE HULME
Over 40s South-East Group:	BOLLINGTON VETERANS
Over 40s West Group (Mike Talbot-Butler Trophy):	CHESTER BOUGHTON HALL
Over 40s Players (Colin Moore Trophy):	NESTON

DUCKWORTH LEWIS STERN

James Emmerson makes the case for Cheshire Cricket to adopt both DL and DLS.



The 1992 World Cup semi-final between England and South Africa has become one of the most important games of one day cricket every played. We all know what happened - a great tournament was ruined by a badly thought-through rain rule which led to a number of iniquitous situations, culminating in the now infamous match when a rain delay left SA needing an impossible equation. The search was on to find a better solution to cricket's never-ending problem, namely the fairest possible resolution of a weather-interrupted match, and on the 1st Jan 1997, what was then the Duckworth-Lewis method was officially introduced - which did not go well for England, as they became the first side to lose a match decided

by a D/L calculation to Zimbabwe. D/L methodology rapidly became widely accepted and is now an integral part of the one day game. Many cricket leagues too have adopted D/L, which in 2014 became the DLS method, the 'S' reflecting the name of Stephen Stern, an Australian whose statistical updates kept the method current and who is now the official 'custodian' after the retirement of Messers Duckworth & Lewis. As a scorer, and a supporter of Cheshire cricket, the case for using both D/L and DLS is, to me, overwhelming, not just in the Cheshire Cup but in all league and cup cricket, and I think Cheshire cricket will benefit from fully embracing it. Here's my case for adopting it.

WHY D/L OR DLS IN LEAGUE MATCHES?

There can surely be no argument that, within the regulations of league matches in the CCCL, the situation of a weather-affected match which leads to an unequal split of overs, but the side batting second not having their victory target adjusted at all, is patently unfair, and frankly ridiculous. Having the ability to recalculate a target via D/L or DLS is an easy way to right this wrong.



HOW DO D/L AND DLS WORK?

In any cricket match, a side has two lots of **resources** – wickets in hand and overs to bat.

When an interruption occurs, D/L and DLS assess how the available resources have been used to date, and what resources remain for each side. It is this assessment that determines what target is then set.

As a general rule if the team batting second has fewer resources (i.e. fewer overs) available than team 1, then their target is revised **downwards**.

If the team batting first have their innings interrupted - or interrupted and later terminated without resumption - then the target for the team batting second will usually be revised **upwards**.

D/L OR DLS IS TOO COMPLEX FOR CHESHIRE CRICKET TO USE.

Many leagues have successfully used DL and DLS, which are an established and accepted part of cricket. To exclude their use is to the detriment of the CCCL, leaving it potentially 'lagging behind'.

DUCKWORTH LEWIS STERN

Explanations and Examples

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN D/L AND DLS?

Simply, DLS can be only calculated on a computer. D/L can be calculated both manually and via software or an app. In general, a DLS calculation will always produce a slightly higher target than one made via D/L. The D/L formula has been kept in use for a number of reasons, not least because it is available as a back-up at every professional one-day match, in case of major equipment failure at the venue.



WOULD D/L OR DLS MEAN WIN-LOSE CRICKET THROUGHOUT ALL CCCL MATCHES?

No! The 'draw' is a legitimate result in a team sport, and that can be retained in league cricket. Using D/L or DLS to recalculate the target in a weather-affected league match with an unequal split of overs still leaves all the result options open. The side batting second could still draw the match if they don't reach their target (but are not bowled out), but equally, a fairer target calculation where an unequal overs split has occurred makes it a better and more equitable game, which can only be for the good.

EXAMPLE - CCCL PREMIER LEAGUE

As the Premier League is 55 overs per side, DLS would have to be used as D/L can only deal with matches of upto 50 per side.

In a match a few years ago, team A scored 259-7 in 55 overs. It then rained and team B ended up with 26 overs to chase the same score - clearly unfair and unreasonable.

Using DLS, team B would have been set a target of 181 from 26 overs. At 7 an over, this is a stiff task but it reflects a decent use of team A's resources, and also the fact that team B know they only have 26 overs - which will affect their approach. It's also fairer than having to attain 260 off 26 overs to win - and there is still the option to draw the game.

It is entirely upto clubs to propose the adoption of D/L and DLS in league cricket.

There are issues to consider of course, as laid out in brief here, but with resources and training available, there is plenty of opportunity for players and officials to familiarise themselves with both systems, overcome concerns, and welcome a positive addition to Cheshire Cricket in 2019.

EXAMPLE - CCCL DIVISION ONE

In a match several seasons ago team A scored 170-9 in their 50 overs; it then rained and team B had 32 overs with no reduction in target. **Using D/L, team B would have needed 134 to win (139 using DLS).** Again, the target reflects the use of 'resources' in the match - team A clearly had a struggle and team B are 'credited' for what looks to have been a good bowling effort.

EXAMPLE - CCCL DIVISION TWO

In a 2013 match, team A had reached 217-5 off 47 overs when it rained. During the lengthy stoppage team A declared and team B were left with 37 overs to face.

Using D/L team B would have been set 206 to win. This may seem only a small reduction for team B but it reflects a good effort by team A, who also had unused resources (5 wickets and 18 balls) which could have taken them past 240. Had team A been 217 - 9 in the same situation, team B would have been set 194 to win - the target again reflecting the way team A have used their resources in this scenario.

FACTORS TO CONSIDER IN IMPLEMENTATION

- Training for scorers and umpires in both D/L and DLS
- Adaptation of scoreboards to display relevant info
- Equipment needed at each match to provide information

DRAWING CONCLUSIONS FROM 2018

Drawn league matches are cited as a key reason why people lose interest in playing the game. Sides who bat second blocking out from ball one, with no intention of getting the target, are the main reason why the concept of the draw seems unpopular in some quarters. And of course, when this happens it can be a painful scenario to take part in, either as a player or official. So what does the statistical evidence from 2018 indicate?

2018 CCCL	MATCHES	DRAWN	RAIN AFFECTED DRAW	% OF MATCHES TIED	CANCELLED	ABAND	CONCEDED
1ST XI PREM	132	14	4	10.6	1	9	-
1ST XI DIV 1	132	27	6	20.4	1	6	1
1ST XI DIV 2	132	13	-	9.8	1	8	-
2ND XI PREM	132	20	2	15	-	7	-
2ND XI DIV 1	132	22	-	16	-	7	-
2ND XI DIV 2	132	38	-	28	1	8	3
3RD XI SUN PREM	90	22	-	24.4	-	12	8
3RD XI SUN WEST	36	10	1	27.7	-	6	15
3RD XI SUN CENTRAL	56	8	-	14.2	-	6	7
3RD XI SUN EAST DIV 1	90	17	-	18.8	-	11	2
3RD XI SUN EAST DIV 2	56	7	2	12.5	-	9	4
3RD XI SUN EAST DIV 3	64	8	-	12.5	-	6	11
TOTALS	1184	206	15	18.66	4	95	1

Of course, statistics only give only part of a story. The percentages are obviously skewed by the number of fixtures in a division and I suspect some of the rain affected draws should actually have been classed as abandonments, which is generally considered to be where only one side has had an opportunity to bat before play is halted. So the actual figures of somewhere under one-fifth of all matches being drawn may be slightly misleading - and that's before you look at some of the stories behind the results.

20.4% matches drawn in 1st XI Div 1
(above the overall average)

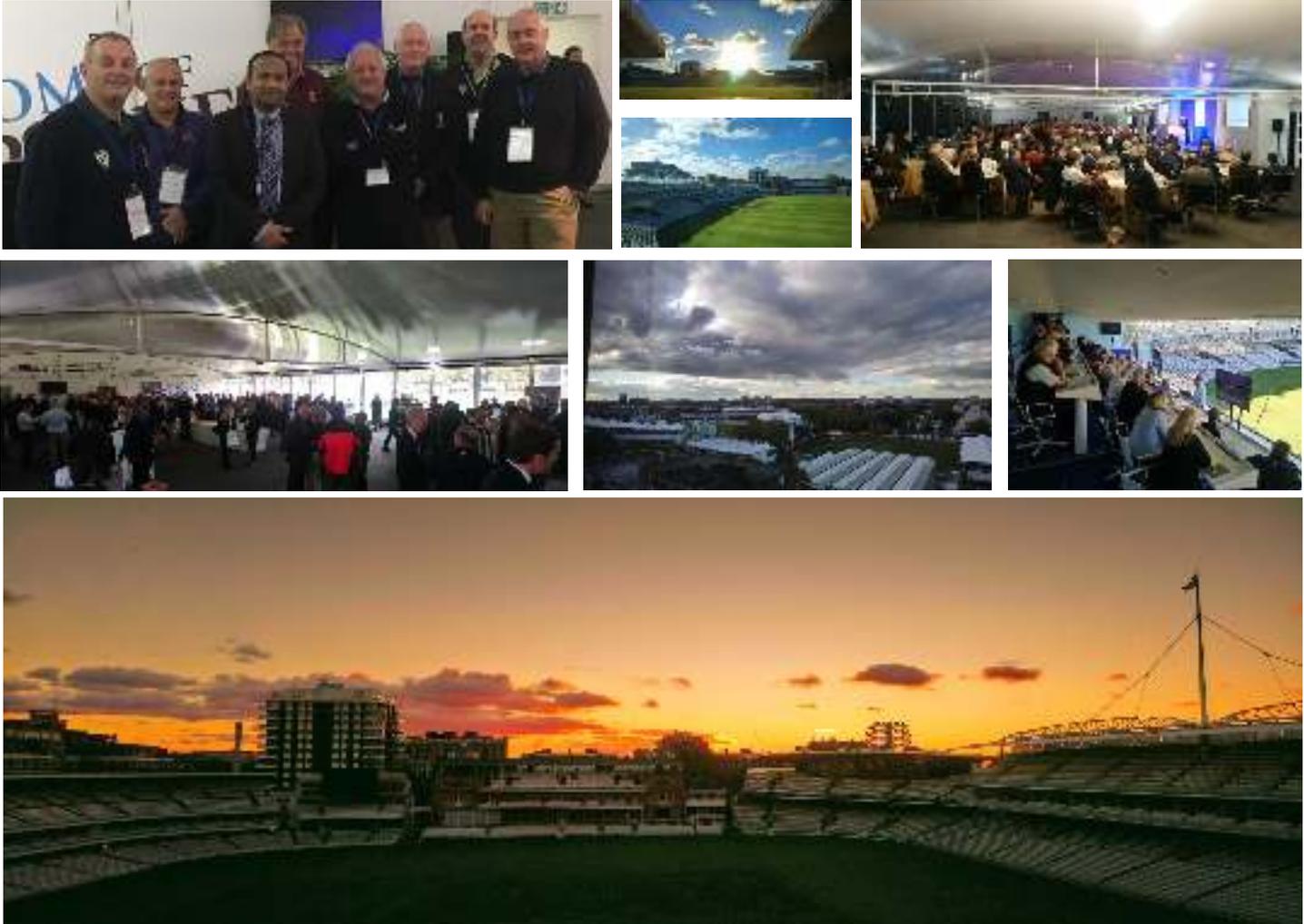
but many of those had tales to tell. On July 21, for example, Oxtan set Bowdon 147 to win, before Bowdon collapsed to 29-6 before finishing on 124-9. Bowdon also had a thrilling draw with Macclesfield, finishing on 160-8 after needing 162 to win. In July Macc set Bollington 257 to win, Bolly finishing on 234-8 after an opening partnership of 114 - so a match of fluctuating fortunes there. Macc also featured in a rain-affected draw on the 28th April, the weather intervening with Macc 18-5 in pursuit of 155 to beat Oxtan (they were 3-5 at one stage!) A number of other drawn games had tight finishes.

So although the statistical evidence points towards draws being far more common in 2nd and 3rd XI cricket, the stories behind each draw may tell a different tale - thus the percentage of 'bore draws' is likely to be lower. However, the number of concessions in these divisions (although less than 5% of all cricket in Cheshire) is also of great concern, and we cannot afford to be complacent about this. Could a different format prove more effective in attracting and retaining players and reducing concessions? Could the introduction of D/L help? Recently conducted ECB research suggests that the most popular format of a recreational cricket match (below 1st XI level) was a 40 overs per side win-lose match starting at noon and ending by 6.00pm - is this something that would get voted in? We will find out in the early part of 2019!



ECBACO NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2018

The bi-annual national conference for officials was held at Lords on October 27th and proved to be a great success. A variety of topics and sessions throughout the day, plus tours of Lords and some opportunities for umpires to pit themselves against Hawkeye, provided a full schedule - with, of course, a good lunch break! Guest speakers Geoff Miller and Andy Zaltzman provided a lot of laughs, and with Charles Dagnall compering for much of the day, there were numerous opportunities to rub shoulders with the great and the good. Here are some of the highlights of the day.



WHAT'S THE RIGHT DECISION?

Many thanks to those of you getting in touch with your responses to the posers set. The answers to last month: 1) If the umpire is satisfied that the collision with the stumps is accidental, not out. If the umpire deems the knocking over the stumps deliberate - for example, to avoid a potential run out - then on appeal the batsman is out obstructing the field (not hit wicket). 2) The laws do not specifically deal with this but the custom of the game - that is, the umpires

take the field first, followed by the fielding side, and then the batsmen, indicate that the fielding side choose which end they are going to start bowling from and the game develops from there.

In future, given that the County League News only appears regularly during the season, I have decided to make a better use of this feature by including some basic laws education, which will hopefully be of value to players, umpires and

scorers alike - and maybe even spectators, who knows! There is no doubt that knowledge of the laws helps everyone's game, as either a player or official, so do look out for the first feature in the next newsletter, which will be available at some point in late Winter or early Spring.



IT'S OFFICIAL(S) UMPIRES AND SCORERS



Cheshire Education Officer Geoff Young has arranged a number of courses over the Winter and Spring for umpires - so whether you (or someone you know) is wanting to get started in on-field officiating, or whether you want to develop further by taking a more advanced course, please get these dates into your diaries. There are also two refresher courses next year, suitable for all who want to revise and refresh their understanding in like-minded company.

For more information about any course, and to book, please contact Geoff directly in the first instance, either via email: curzon99@tiscali.co.uk or on 01352 755881.

UMPIRING COURSES

ECABACO have redesigned the umpiring syllabus into stages, with stages 1 and 2 replacing the former Level 1 and Level 1A. Courses will be run on consecutive weekends; there is no obligation to do stage 2, but a discount applies if both stage 1 and 2 are booked at the same time. There are three courses running in Cheshire during Autumn, Winter & Spring:

UMPIRE STAGE ONE & TWO 2018

11th November (Stage 1) and
18th November (Stage 2).
Oakmere CC, 9.30am - 4.45pm

UMPIRE STAGE ONE & TWO 2019

27th January (Stage 1) and
3rd February (Stage 2).
Toft CC, 9.30am - 4.45pm

UMPIRE STAGE ONE & TWO 2019

2nd March (Stage 1) and
9th March (Stage 2).
Toft CC, 9.30am - 4.45pm

UMPIRE STAGE THREE (FORMERLY LEVEL 2) 17th and 24th February 2019, Oakmere C.C. 9.30am - 4.45pm

UMPIRE REFRESHER COURSE OAKMERE C.C.

2nd and 9th February
9.30am - 4.45pm



UMPIRE REFRESHER COURSE TOFT C.C.

10th and 31st March
9.30am - 4.45pm

Refresher courses are open to all umpires and are recommended as a great way of interacting with colleagues, looking at laws knowledge and fieldcraft in preparation for the coming season.

INTRODUCTORY UMPIRING & SCORING COURSE

This course is offered by Cheshire ACO for all clubs that wish to provide some basic 'how to' education for parents (and players) involved in junior cricket, to give them more confidence in undertaking these vital roles in junior games.

Clubs request a course and then make arrangements as to a suitable date etc. The course is a 2 hour session which is lively, interactive and fun. Course cost is £50.



SCORING COURSES

A number of different courses will be available in the spring of 2019.

CLUB SCORER COURSE

16th & 23rd March 2019 at Toft C.C, 9.30am - 4.00pm
Suitable for beginners and/or inexperienced scorers.

ELECTRONIC SCORING MODULE

6th April 2019
at Toft C.C.

A one day course which will provide guidance on how to score matches on computer or iPad.



D/L AND DLS MODULES ARE CURRENTLY UNDER DISCUSSION AND WILL BE SCHEDULED IN THE SPRING OF 2019.

FOR MORE DETAILS AND TO BOOK
CONTACT JAMES EMMERSON: semajemm@gmail.com

GLYN ROBERTS

Death of popular player & umpire

The sad news of Glyn Roberts' death on October 18th was met with a flow of tributes and condolences across Cheshire cricket.

A huge part of Sale cricket, club press officer Rob Moore reported on facebook:

"Glyn captained Sale for 7 seasons between 1976 & 1984 and in 27 seasons in the 1st XI scored 6,651 runs and took 431 wickets. He also captained the 3rd XI 1999 -2001.

He also organised our junior section for over 10 years and served as sports club president for 13 years.

Glyn has been ever present for many of us, a kind and generous man who worked tirelessly for the club for 50 years. A true gentleman who will be sadly missed."

After his playing career Glyn became an umpire and developed a high

standard of competence, one of the lead figures on the Premier League panel. His death at the age of 72 means that Cheshire cricket will be much the poorer without him. As Umpires Committee member Jon Hacking put it, *"Glyn's service to Cheshire cricket was an example to us all. He was a wonderful man to know."*



Ian Greensmith, Chairman of CCCL Umpires & Scorers Association:

It was with great sadness that I learned of Glyn's death. Glyn had been ill and had spent sometime in hospital over the last 3 years but nevertheless his untimely death was a shock. A native of Somerset, he graduated at Manchester University and never moved back, working for British Gas upto his retirement. Glyn joined Sale Cricket Club in 1968 and served the club in many different roles including 1st XI captain and was their longest serving member. He was an excellent all rounder, his batting and off-spin bowling both very effective, but above all he will be remembered as a gentleman.

In the year 2000 he joined the CCCL Umpires Panel and soon established himself as a top class umpire.

In 2010 he succeeded Geoff Wellsted as Secretary of the CCCL Umpires Association and had become an invaluable member of the organisation. Despite his illness he continued in the role, dealing with a number of matters - on occasions from his hospital bed.

I cannot remember anybody, colleague or opponent, ever saying a bad word about Glyn, one of cricket - and life's - true gentlemen.

He leaves his wife Lesley and 3 children, two sons and a daughter.

GLYN'S FUNERAL IS ON TUES NOV 13, NOON, AT ALTRINCHAM CREMATORIUM. THERE IS AN INVITATION TO SALE CRICKET CLUB AFTERWARDS.

The Editor writes:

My association with Glyn was through umpiring, and I had the good fortune to stand with him on the opening day of the 2016 season at Stockport - I think his last as an umpire. His enthusiasm at 70 years of age was still unabated, and he was always eager to encourage and compliment me in my umpiring, as he was with so many colleagues he stood with.

This April, a work commitment meant I could not attend the pre-season umpires gathering (*where match cards, handbooks etc are given out*), so I contacted Glyn to ask him to post my allocation across. Instead of doing this, on the opening day Glyn drove over to Hyde CC, where I was umpiring, just to make sure he put the items into my hands, and again was eager to encourage and support. I was really touched by Glyn going to such lengths, and again this was so typical of the man.

Glyn was also a fan of this newsletter and took the time to send me a lengthy email of encouragement after the trial edition. To be having to include such sad news now is very difficult indeed.

A selection from the Cheshire Cricket News & Banter Facebook page:



FROM THE EDITOR



As I write, England have just defied all the odds by winning a Test Match overseas and India's Harmanpreet Kaur has boshed the NZ women all over Guyana as the Women's World T20 gets underway. Although our cricket in the UK has ended, there's always a game somewhere, but this is our time of the year to reflect and plan ahead for 2019, not forgetting to savour all of the many good things we enjoyed

through our season just gone. So this last newsletter of the year is a bit of both - celebrating a wonderful season weather-wise and also the many great achievements, whilst also looking ahead to some of the challenges that we face. Some issues seems to come round for debate annually - especially the *win/lose* format favoured by some - and I hope that the articles in here help in some way to inform that very important debate. Some leagues have a mix of formats throughout the season, ECB have made proposals before about the most popular type of format, and then of course there is the option to fully adopt D/L and or DLS. I hope that the meetings in the New Year will be fruitful in deciding upon the right

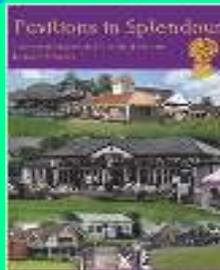
formats for the right divisions. There are of course other issues to ponder. I have been reading about a plan to add 50 new cricket facilities across London by 2020 - ambitious. In a different vein, Brian Birtles drew my attention to a proposed merger between Poynton and Disley. I have included a link to the article on the Poynton play-cricket site below and would commend it to you all to read through as I am sure there will be a number of points of interest and recognition! So do have a look. Make the most of your 'downtime' and thank you to all who have got in touch to encourage and inform these early newsletter editions. Back at some point in the late winter/early Spring!

James

To look at the article proposing a merger between Poynton and Disley please go to:

poynton.play-cricket.com/website/articles/22309

Any clubs with specific fixture requirements in 2019 are advised to contact Ian Sharrock by **SUNDAY 9TH DECEMBER LATEST** via email: sawdanine@gmail.com



PAVILIONS IN SPLENDOUR
Geoff Wellsted's 248 page hardback book termed "*indisputably the definitive book about club cricket in Cheshire*" has more than 200 photographs and lots of historical facts, amusing anecdotes and reminiscences. It has sold well and is now down to remainder levels with the publisher, who is selling these at £10.

Geoff advises that it may be possible to avoid postal charges for some 'local' buyers otherwise the Royal Mail cost is £2.95. Clubs can buy 6 for the price of 5. Please email Geoff if you are interested and he will make delivery arrangements with you. His email: geoffwellsted@hotmail.com

Send your feedback and information to James: editorclnews101@gmail.com

VIVIO CHESHIRE COUNTY CRICKET LEAGUE

VIVIO

