

CHESHIRE WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The recent Rules meeting voted in a new structure for Division 3, similar to the format used in the top two divisions. The nine Division 3 clubs will be split into two regional divisions as follows:

Division 3 East – Appleton 2nd XI, Didsbury 2nd XI, Lymm Oughtrington Park, Marple, Woodley

Division 3 West – Chester Boughton Hall 2nd XI, Hawarden Park, Nantwich, Upton

The teams will play the others in their division home and away, plus one match against each team in the other Division 3 region.

The other significant change to the competition formats sees the introduction of home and away fixtures in the Western and Eastern Divisions of the T20 Divisional Competition.

Other regulations decided at the meeting were:

- Teams who have entered the National Knockout will be permitted to re-arrange matches in Division ½ where these clash with fixture commitments in the National. However, in these circumstances, the other club will have the right to choose the Sunday / Bank Holiday date on which the CWCL match is played, subject to this not being a date on which the National Knockout entrant club already has a scheduled fixture
- Division 3 players who play for the same club in the Development Knockout will be free to select a second club to represent in the Senior Knockout and the T20 Divisional Competition
- The regulation allowing a bowler two warnings for bowling of full pitches will be maintained in all League competitions. The new Law which stipulates that a bowler is only allowed one warning, and is then withdrawn from the attack on the second occasion, will not apply in League competitions
- The special regulation authorising umpires to award penalty runs for instances of dissent or abuse has been removed from the regulations of all League competitions, as the issues involved are now fully covered under the new Law 42 of the Laws of Cricket

The draw for the Senior Knockout Cup has paired Oakmere with Chester Boughton Hall in a heavyweight quarter-final clash, with Appleton possible opponents for the victor.

Round One:

- A- Wistaston Swans v Ashton-on-Mersey (provisionally Friday May 18)
- B- Woodley v Stockport Trinity Fire (Monday May 14)

Quarter Finals:

- 1- Winner A v Winner B (Thursday June 7 / Friday June 8)
- 2- Oxtun v Didsbury Swordettes (Sunday June 10)
- 3- Oakmere Kats v Chester Boughton Hall Deemons (Monday June 4)
- 4- Appleton Tigers v Stockport Georgians (Monday June 4)

Semi Finals:

Winner 1 v Winner 2
Winner 3 v Winner 4 (Monday July 2 / Tuesday July 3)

Final on Sunday August 19

The Development Knockout draw sees all the teams drawn away required to travel a reasonable distance for their first match:

Quarter Finals:

- 1 – Upton v Lymm Lightning (provisionally Sunday June 3)
- 2 – Hawarden Park v Didsbury 2nd XI (Sunday June 24)
- 3 – Woodley v Nantwich Vipers (Sunday June 3)

Semi Finals:

Winner 1 v Winner 2
Winner 3 v Marple

Defending league champions Oakmere start the 2018 season at home to Didsbury on Sunday April 22. After their promotions, Wistaston Village start at home to Appleton in division one, and Stockport Georgians at home to Oxton in division two. Full fixtures for all competitions except Division 3 have been circulated to club representatives and are also on Play Cricket.

The annual Captains' meeting will be at Lymm Oughtrington Park CC on Wednesday March 21 at 1830. Important information and documents regarding the forthcoming season will be given at this meeting, so it is vital that all captains or vice-captains attend. Free pizza will be provided for those attending this meeting. A full Committee meeting will follow at 1930.

October 2017 saw the most far-reaching changes to the Laws of Cricket for a decade. Hence anyone who umpires in the CWCL - whichever division's matches they umpire, and whether they are a qualified umpire or not - will need to attend an official refresher course during the winter.

The remaining locations and dates for these courses are:

- Oakmere CC on Monday January 15
- Nantwich CC on Thursday February 8
- Toft CC on Tuesday February 13
- Didsbury CC on Wednesday February 21

Please ask your umpire(s) to advise Geoff Young on curzon99@tiscali.co.uk of which date and location they wish to attend, if they have not done so already.

Any new or aspiring umpires can attend the [umpires' courses](#) to be held at Toft in January and March, or at Oakmere in February.

The Association of Cricket Officials has launched an [Online Scorers Course](#), suitable for complete beginners who want to score on a regular basis, or for existing scorers who want to improve their skills.

NATIONAL KNOCKOUT

The two League clubs who have entered the National Knockout, Didsbury and Stockport Georgians, have both received a bye in the first round, and will enter at the second round stage on May 20.

ENGLAND WOMEN

England Women won the Team of the Year award at the BBC Sports Personality of the Year awards ceremony on December 17, beating off stiff competition from the likes of the England men's age group world champion football teams. With so many of the squad playing in the Women's Big Bash League in Australia, Sophie Ecclestone was one of a handful of England squad members to take to the stage at the Echo Arena in Liverpool to collect the award. World Cup Final hero Anya Shrubsole came 9th in the voting for the main Sports Personality Award, while Mark Robinson was nominated for Coach of the Year and Ecclestone herself for Young Sports Personality.

Captain Heather Knight and coach Robinson were appointed OBE in the New Year honours list. World Cup final hero Shrubsole and player of the tournament Tammy Beaumont received the MBE. Clare Connor, the ECB's head of women's cricket, was awarded the CBE.

England visit India in the spring, playing a T20 series against the host nation and Australia:

March 24 - Australia v England

March 26 - India v England

March 30 - Australia v England

April 1 - India v England

April 3 - Final

This is followed by a three match one-day international series against India, with matches on April 8-14.

[Review of the Year in Women's Cricket](#) (Podcast from the CricketHer blog)

WISHING ALL READERS OF THE DAZZLER A VERY
HAPPY NEW YEAR! SEE YOU IN 2018!