

**December 2009 Newsletter:**  
*A Happy Christmas and New Year to all readers*

# CHESHIRE COUNTY CRICKET LEAGUE

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## **New sponsors for Fred Graham T20 Trophy**

THE League shortly hope to name new sponsors for the 2010 Fred Graham T20 Trophy, following the withdrawal of Fusion Sports.

A meeting has been held between League officers and a nationally-known group and it is hoped to finalise arrangements before Christmas.

Finals Day will be at Warrington on Sunday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, with August 15<sup>th</sup> the stand-by date.

Umpires & Scorers Association Appointments secretary Jon Hacking has accepted the post of competition co-ordinator and will be responsible for receiving the dates of all games from home clubs and also for appointing umpires to those games.

**FRED GRAHAM TROPHY DRAW** (all clubs entered except Stockport Georgians):

**Round 1** (to be played by May 10): Timperley v Brooklands; Ashton on Mersey v Grappenhall; Neston v Tattenhall.

**Round 2** (by May 31): Timperley or Brooklands v Toft; Bowdon v Urmston; Didsbury v Bramhall; Marple v Heaton Mersey; Cheadle Hulme v Bollington; Cheadle v Bredbury St. Mark's; Poynton v Alderley Edge; Hyde v Macclesfield; Ashton on Mersey or Grappenhall v Mobberley; Middlewich v Sale; Congleton v Nantwich; Warrington v Oulton Park (holders); Irby v Christleton; Birkenhead Park v Widnes; Upton v Chester Boughton Hall; Neston or Tattenhall v Oxtan.

**Round 3** by June 28<sup>th</sup> (**not June 2<sup>nd</sup> as stated in release to clubs**); **Quarter-finals** by July 26<sup>th</sup>.

**FIXTURE AMENDMENTS**

Clubs should note the following alterations to the 1st & 2nd XI League fixtures recently circulated:

**1st XI Division Two on July 10th:** Bredbury St. Mark's v Warrington (not Birkenhead Park v Warrington).

**2nd XI Premier Division on September 4<sup>th</sup>:** Alderley Edge v Didsbury (not Didsbury v Alderley Edge)

**2nd XI Division Two on August 14th:** Heaton Mersey v Christleton (not Heaton Mersey v Congleton).

### **New 2010 regulations discussed**

THE November management committee discussed possible 2010 regulation changes including the vexed question of players operating outside the league without permission, which brought grief – and many deducted points - for Alderley Edge and Widnes last season. The proposals discussed included some of the following (changes in bold type):

O No player playing in any other league shall be permitted to play in any match under the auspices of the League **without the permission of the League.**

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**O No player currently playing in the League may play in a league or cup match outside the auspices of the League without the permission of the League.**

**O Any club wishing either to select a player from another league or to request permission for one of their players to play league or cup cricket outside the League must apply at least 48 hours in advance to the Cricket Committee for approval.**

**O If approval is not sought or granted and the player plays in another league or cup game outside the auspices of this League, the player will be deemed to be ineligible and the club may be punished under Playing Regulation 5 (i) for the subsequent League game(s) in which the player appears for the club following an appearance(s) outside this league. The League reserves the right to punish the player with a fine or suspension if it is deemed appropriate.**

**O This rule does not apply to permanent transfers into or out of the League or to full time students who have played for their club during the previous season. For the Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> XI competition also note Rule 9 (b) (iii).**

**O Any players wishing to transfer into the League during the season must provide written clearance from his previous club prior to taking part in any League fixture. It is the responsibility of the new club to ensure that any such clearance is lodged with the Competition Secretary or Assistant Secretary at least 48 hours prior to the player appearing for his new club. (A transfer form is available to help clubs adhere to this ruling).**

(The League Cricket Conference were told at their December meeting that the UK Border Agency were carrying out investigations into players who entered the UK on a Sports Visa last season and went on to play as sub professionals against the rules of Sports Visas. The outcome may be that the UKBA will prosecute several clubs, the fine being a maximum £10,000 for employing a player who does not have a work permit to act as a sub pro. They are also considering action against clubs who brought a player into to the UK on a Sports Visa, then allowed him to accept work as a sub pro)

**O No club shall be permitted to register more than one professionally contracted player in a season.**

**O Points awarded for cancelled or abandoned matches to be reduced from nine to seven.**

**O A new batting bonus points scheme to be introduced for games where the start is delayed by weather.**

**O All home teams must accurately enter their 1st XI League scorecard on the playcricket.com website within 48 hours of the conclusion of a game. Failure to do so will incur a £15 fine. (Webmaster Darren Sutcliffe reports that the site received 300,000 hits during the 2009 season).**

**O In the event of a club defaulting on a League fixture, if the defaulting team is playing away and pulls out after midnight the previous Thursday, they will be required to pay a default fee of 40 pc to the home side.**

These regulations and others considered at the November management meeting will be voted upon at the January meeting.

### **FINES TOP £4,000**

LEAGUE fines for 2009 reached a total of £4,125 compared with £2,625 in 2008.

The increase is largely accounted for by the failure of an increasing number of 1<sup>st</sup> XI captains to return umpires' assessment cards and poor attendance at meetings.

A club whose excellent administration resulted in no fines being levied was Burnage, who have now left the league. Worst culprits were Didsbury 19 fines, Birkenhead Park 16, Poynton 15 and Widnes 14.

Treasurer Brent Wilkinson told the November management meeting that cash and Building Society balances currently totalled about £32,000 and he would be reporting a surplus at the AGM.

All 12 Premier League clubs had received grants of £750 from the ECB.

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### **CRICKET BALLS**

All orders for 2010 cricket balls at a price of £15.10 including VAT, had to be placed with Mr. Wilkinson by November 30<sup>th</sup>, otherwise he would assume each club's quota was unchanged. All full member clubs would receive five free balls again next season. The balls had to be paid for in full by January 31<sup>st</sup> and would be delivered at the April meeting.

Clubs with outstanding 2009 subscriptions were Birkenhead Park, Heaton Mersey and Oulton Park and all would be fined 10 pc as per rule.

He reported a nett loss of £1,500 on the League Presentation and junior dinners, the former due to a small attendance and the high cost of speakers.

### **17 PLAYERS SUSPENDED**

A total of 17 players were suspended during the 2009 season, reports Discipline chairman Ian Greensmith. In addition, three clubs had fines imposed and Burnage were docked six points.

## **NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP DATES**

The National Club championship in 2010 is restricted to an entry of 256 clubs, with preference given to premiership teams. Provisional dates:

Round 1 by May 16; Round 2 by June 6; Round 3 by June 27; group finals by July 11; last 16 by July 25; Quarter-finals by August 8; semi-finals by August 22. The final will be on a first-class country ground – not Lord's – on a date yet to be decided in September.

The 2009 winners were Chester le Street of the North-East Premier League, who beat Spencer (Surrey championship) in the final at Derby. A national sponsor is being sought.

## ***Umpiring ..... for the Terrified !***

THE Cheshire Umpires and Scorers Association are running their popular 'Umpiring and Scoring for the Terrified' seminars during the winter.

The seminars are roughly two hours long and aimed at juniors, junior parents and coaches to give them a basic insight into umpiring and scoring for the benefit of junior cricket.

Clubs interested in staging one or more sessions on their premises should contact Ian Bishop on 0161 962 5833 (home); 07979 242 657 (mobile) or by e-mail on [ianbishop1934@btinternet.com](mailto:ianbishop1934@btinternet.com).

Alternatively, have a word with Steve Goron 01625 532 838 or e-mail him on [stevegoron@ntlworld.com](mailto:stevegoron@ntlworld.com).

## **Sunday 3rd XI cricket in 2010**

A RECORD 56 teams will play 3rd XI cricket in 2010.

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> XI Division One will continue with 12 teams, Oxton 3<sup>rd</sup> and Upton 4<sup>th</sup> dropping into Division Two to be replaced by Cheadle Hulme 3rd and Brooklands / Sale Moor. Division Two increases to 11 teams with the admission of the newly-formed Oxton 4<sup>th</sup> XI. Results secretary Brian Boys is currently drawing up the fixture list and will endeavour to give Division Two teams 22 fixtures each.

A total of 36 clubs had entered the Jack Gardner 3<sup>rd</sup> XI Trophy up to December 5<sup>th</sup> and organiser Brian Boys plans to give further interested clubs until December 11<sup>th</sup> to contact him. New in are Alvanley, Hale Barns, Oulton Park, Prestbury, Widnes and Winnington Park. Cheadle are disqualified while Elworth and Nantwich have declined to enter. The current plan is to form nine groups of four teams with each playing three games in East, Central and West geographical zones during the first three weeks of the season. Brian's e-mail address is: [brian@mvirtual.net](mailto:brian@mvirtual.net)

While the Sunday set up has lost Alderley Edge, who have opted to play friendlies, the admissions have been approved of Oxton, switching their Sunday team from the Liverpool Competition, Alvanley, Cheadle 4, Warrington 5 and new associates Wistaston Village. Division Five will operate with six teams playing one another three times following the late withdrawal of Cheadle Hulme 5<sup>th</sup>.

Fixture-lists for all Sunday divisions have been drawn up by Urmston chairman Rob Arnold and circulated to involved clubs.

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### SUNDAY LINE-UP

**Sunday Division 1 (10 teams: 18 fixtures):** Didsbury, Heaton Mersey 3, Toft, Marple, Elworth 3, Bramhall 4, Nantwich 3, Upton 5 plus promoted teams Hyde 3 and Grappenhall

**Sunday Division 2 (10 teams: 18 fixtures):** Relegated teams Congleton and Brooklands 4<sup>th</sup> plus Stockport, Urmston, Poynton, Timperley 5. Christleton, Bowdon and promoted duo Sale 3 and Tattenhall.

**Division 3 West (10 teams: 18 fixtures):** New Brighton, Stretton, Oulton Park, Widnes, Winnington Park, Middlewich, Northwich, Ashley 3 and promoted teams Runcorn and Oxton (from Liverpool Competition).

**Division 3 East (10 teams: 18 fixtures):** Didsbury 4, Romiley, Hyde 4, Hale Barns, Stockport Georgians, Bredbury 3, Marple 4, Ashton on Mersey, Cheadle 3, and promoted Cheadle Hulme 4.

**Division 4 (10 teams: 18 fixtures):** Bollington, Woodford, Macclesfield, Mobberley, Nantwich 4, Ashley 4, Bredbury 4 and three promoted teams Prestbury, Elworth 4 and Sale 4.

**Division 5 (six teams, 15 fixtures):** Heaton Mersey 4, Bramhall 4, plus newcomers Alvanley, Cheadle 4, Warrington 5 and Wistaston Village.

O If approved at the January management meeting, 3<sup>rd</sup> XI Sunday fixtures will revert from 2 p.m. to 1 p.m. starts after the end of July. In addition, clubs will be allowed to switch fixtures by mutual agreement to their opponents' grounds without league sanction in the event of unfit pitches.

### Derrick Hastings is new Cheshire secretary

RETIRED Northwich solicitor Derrick Hastings was elected secretary of Cheshire County Cricket Club at the annual meeting on November 25<sup>th</sup>.

A life member of CCCC and long-time follower of the Minor Counties team, he succeeds Tony Percival, who stood down after four years in the post and was appointed an honorary life vice president on appreciation of his services, previously as treasurer.

Cheshire accounts for the year ending November, 2008 showed a loss of £1,213 compared with one of £3,796 in 2007. Net current assets on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008 amounted to £103,424.

Income for the year was £48,947 including receipts of £29,819 from the MCCA, £8,843 from sponsorship and £3,134 in subscriptions and donations. Expenditure totalled £50,160 including £45,556 incurred in fulfilling 11 championship and cup matches.

#### DEATH OF DAVID BERRY

The sudden death has occurred of former Heaton Mersey player David Berry, whose funeral took place on Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. David and his wife Sylvia, an ex-Mersey treasurer, were both Cheshire members and in recent seasons had followed the county's fortunes at home and away.

O League Fixture secretary and Cheshire team manager Sandy Scrimgeour remains in Hope Hospital, Salford, after two major operations and is in a stable condition, reports his wife Elise who again thanks many well-wishers for their kind thoughts.

#### MINOR COUNTIES FIXTURES

THE Minor Counties one-day knock-out groups have been re-shuffled in 2010 and Cheshire will play attractive new fixtures at Jesmond against Northumberland and at home to 2009 defeated finalists Staffordshire. The four-match Sunday programme is:

May 2: Shropshire at Marple; May 9: Northumberland at Jesmond; May 16: Staffordshire at Grappenhall; May 23: Cumberland at Netherfield

If Cheshire win their group they will be at home in the quarter-finals on Sunday, June 13, then provisionally away in the semi-final on Sunday, July 11<sup>th</sup>. No final date or venue has yet been set.

Three-day championship fixtures (all Sundays to Tuesdays): June 6 – 8: Oxfordshire at Banbury; June 20-22: Wiltshire at Chester Boughton Hall; July 4 – 6: Dorset at Bournemouth; June 18 – 20: Berkshire at Finchampstead; August 1 – 3: Devon at Nantwich; August 15 – 17: Shropshire at Alderley Edge.

In the inter-divisional play-off the Western winners will host the Eastern champions from Sunday, September 5 to Wednesday, September 8.

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### **CHESHIRE WOMEN'S CRICKET**

THE Cheshire Women's Cricket League AGM in November admitted Moorfield (Widnes) as their 12th full member. They will play in Division Two.

League officers elected include: President Di Totty; chairman vacant; secretary Sarah Stevens; Fixtures & Results Martin Saxon.

Leading First Division run scorer last season was Appleton's Emma Burton (218); bowling Gillian Spragg (Poynton 14); Division Two batting Lydia Slack (Romiley & Dinting) 229; bowling Amanda Gittins (Trafford) 11.

Cheshire Women's County Cricket Club held their inaugural meeting and elected officers for the first time. Among these are: Captain Lauren Griffiths; coach Andy Paton; secretary-treasurer Jennie Kitzinger; fixtures and press secretary Martin Saxon.

### ***Burnage join Association – confirmed***

RELEGATED from the County League in September, Burnage have formally quit the Cheshire pyramid and joined the Manchester Association for the 2010 season.

Burnage expressed a wish to seek pastures new and were cleared to join the Association after their ground passed an inspection. Says chairman Gary Ramsay: "It was in the interests of the club to make the move for a variety of reasons. We have very much enjoyed our time in the Cheshire and County Leagues".

The Cheshire League will now only relegate Barrow from their First Division, relieving Winnington Park with Stockport and Weaverham promoted from Division Two. Only Alderley Park are relegated from Division Two with Aston and Lindow promoted. In Division Three, Wilmslow and Wistaston Village are relegated to the Cheshire Alliance and replaced by Disley and Woodford, with Romiley arriving from the Derbyshire & Cheshire League.

### **North Staffs League goes open**

THE North Staffs & South Cheshire League have agreed by 26 to 20 votes to go open in 2010, thus permitting clubs to pay any players they wish for the first time.

The League management dropped the former two thirds majority rule and the officers recommended the proposal stating that the previous restriction allowing payment only to registered professionals was "a waste of time and impossible to enforce".

It was also agreed that clubs could employ deputy professionals registered with other leagues

## **IN BRIEF .....**

### **CHESHIRE CUP**

Entries for the 2010 Cheshire Cup and Shield need to be notified to 4Cs Competition Secretary Ian Greensmith by December 31st. His address is 68, Wayfarers Drive, Newton le Willows, Merseyside WA12 1QG. Tel. 01925 227 2343; e-mail: [igre@blueyounder.co.uk](mailto:igre@blueyounder.co.uk)

### **OVERS LIMIT RELAXED**

ECB have relaxed the rules restricting the number of overs to be bowled by teenage fast bowlers in recreational cricket in 2010.

Bowlers under 13 will be able to bowl five-over spells with a total of 10 in a day. Under 14s and Under 15s six over spells and 12 in total; Under 16s / 17s / 18s / 19s can bowl spells of seven overs, with a maximum of 18 in a day.

### **LEAGUE GOLF**

Cheadle's proposal for an annual League Golf Day has been approved by the management committee. Cheadle plan to stage the first event in April, 2010, the money raised on the day to go partly to charity and also to help finance the club Under 18 tour to Barbados in August next year which is expected to cost up to £30,000. Cheadle are to write to all league clubs inviting them to take part, suggesting teams of four.

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### CLUB NEWS

**ALDERLEY EDGE:** New 1st XI captain is Cheshire seam bowler Jason Whittaker. He succeeds Mark Walker who has left to help home town club Northwich mount a Cheshire League title challenge. Long-time scorer Mike Day becomes chairman, succeeding Mike Roff. Kate Branagan continues as secretary having taken over from David Sharp early last season. Ben Heades replaces Simon Pickering as 2<sup>nd</sup> XI captain and 1st XI all-rounder Richard Wilkinson becomes Press officer. Alderley will use the Chelford, Styal and Astra Zeneca grounds for various minor fixtures in 2010.

**ALVANLEY, WISTASTON VILLAGE and WALLASEY** were admitted as associate members at the November management meeting. The first two will play Sunday 3rd XI cricket and Wallasey in the Over 40s section. The League's associate membership now numbers 18.

**ASHTON on MERSEY** will be captained by Mark Timms when they re-enter the League in April after an absence of nine seasons. Peter Timms takes over as Cricket Secretary, while David Marsden continues his successful chairmanship.

**BOLLINGTON:** It's all change at the start of the club's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary season, former Cheshire Rugby Union captain Colin Rowe taking over as chairman, succeeding Chris Murray who moves upstairs after seven years to become president. Matt Dawson is the new 1st XI captain from Rick Hough who is concentrating on his finals at St. Andrews University. Gary Wood returns after his third 'retirement' to lead the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI and student Tom Horsfield takes up the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI reins. League Young Player of the Year nominee Calum Rowe is enjoying a successful season in New South Wales grade cricket with Bective East and plans to bring a club colleague back with him as Bolly's Overseas player following their promotion to Division One.

**BROOKLANDS:** Star old boy Mark Chilton has been voted Player of the Year by Lancashire members (including the editor of this *Newsletter*). Now 33, the one-time MGS opener made his Lancashire first team debut back in 1997 and has since played more than 400 first team games scoring 13,239 runs. Mark played in almost all games in 2009 and captained the one-day side when Glen Chapple was injured, scoring a total of 1,306 runs at 48.56

**CHEADLE** Rana Malook replaces Jonny Reeh as 1<sup>st</sup> XI captain. Extensive pavilion refurbishments have been completed and are expected to impress visiting clubs.

**CONGLETON:** Paul Beaumont and Matt Hunter continue as 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> XI captains respectively, while Matt Miller takes over the thirds. Gavin Wolfenden has been re-elected chairman.

**GRAPPENHALL.** Steve Titchard remains 1<sup>st</sup> XI captain, with all the major officers staying in post from chairman David Nicholson downwards. Mike Holden takes over the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI captaincy.

### NANTWICH DUO HONOURED

**NANTWICH.** Ian Strachan and Paul Livingstone were honoured at a Cheshire East Council Awards evening at Crewe Municipal Buildings when they were presented with Recognition Certificates for services to sport in the local community. They were highly commented for outstanding work for the junior section at the club.

2009 season club award winners: 1<sup>st</sup> XI batting Andy Newton; bowling Barrington Browne (also Players PofY); 2<sup>nd</sup> XI batting: Tim Cowap; bowling: Ben Mogg (also Players' PofY); 3<sup>rd</sup> XI batting: Scot Burdekin; bowling: Dave Walters. 4<sup>th</sup> XI batting: Ian Forster; bowling: Alan Chesters. Most Improved player: Ben Mogg. Best fielder: Steve Quigley; Best Young Player: Rob West. Chairman's Trophy: Paul Livingstone.

**NESTON** have held a well-attended Evening to mark the retirement of Stan Clifford, one of their best post-war all-rounders. Australian-born Stan has played a key role ever since the club joined the CCL in 1998 and in 12 seasons scored a total of 4,954 runs and took 284 wickets.

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**OULTON PARK.** Visitors to Little Budworth next season will be disappointed to find that the Egerton Arms adjoining the ground has closed. Visiting players will be offered post-match refreshment in the pavilion, then invited to join their hosts at the nearby Red Lion Hotel. The closure of the popular watering hole and its extensive grounds comes after a lengthy period when it failed to find a buyer and will be major loss to the club, supporters and visitors.

Long-serving Oulton Park scorer Jim DuMayne has departed to live closer to his family near Bristol. Jim plans to keep in touch with club and League affairs via the *Newsletter*. Oulton are keen to appoint an experienced replacement and invite inquiries to League representative Peter Robinson on 01829 760 187 or by e-mail on [peter@municipalpartspds.co.uk](mailto:peter@municipalpartspds.co.uk)

Park, who will again have Nathan Dumelow at the 1<sup>st</sup> XI helm in 2010, held a successful November dinner at the Millpool Restaurant, Little Budworth.

**POYNTON:** Martin Saxon produced an impressive *Newsletter* entitled The Dazzler detailing the 2009 awards. Players of Year were: Paul Gould (1<sup>st</sup> XI and Clubman); Tom Hamnett (2<sup>nd</sup> XI); Danny Williams (3<sup>rd</sup> XI and Juniors); Gillian Spragg (Women); Dave Hollick (Legends). Other awards: Matt Heathcote (Off field services); Sarah McCann (Services to junior cricket); Adam Williams (Best emerging player); Hannah Gradwell (Best representative player); Rick Clark (All-rounder of Year).

All senior officers have been re-elected, with chairman Mark Williams and 1<sup>st</sup> XI captain Paul Gould continuing, while Tom Hamnett takes over from Matt Heathcote leading the twos.

More money is to be spent on improving ground conditions, including work on the square and a new set of covers, while no Overseas player will be engaged.

**SALE:** The only joint chairmen in the League Mike Wilkes and Matthew Savka replace Rob Moore, who has been appointed overall club president. John O'Donnell continues as secretary as does Jamal Banzafar as club captain. Outstanding all-rounder Hassan Khan remains to try and help the Dane road club win promotion from Division two.

Sale Sports Club are offering a salary of £17,000 for the post of Coaching & Development Officer. The job, which offers a 37 hour week and a three years contract requires a highly motivated, dedicated individual with good organisational and communication skills. Closing date is December 14<sup>th</sup>, interview date mid-January. Further details from Rob Moore on 07775 880 433.

### **TYERS TO LEAD GEORGIANS**

**STOCKPORT GEORGIANS:** Nick Tyers comes in as 1<sup>st</sup> XI captain to succeed Chris Tarberner after a six-season stint. Nick's season ended prematurely with a ruptured Achilles. John Baines, who is to lead the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI has an amusing e-mail address: [bainesythemenace@hotmail.com](mailto:bainesythemenace@hotmail.com) Chairman Martin Unsworth's committee continues en bloc.

Georgians' Kyle Topping met up with 2009 overseas player Andy Splatt while Kyle was playing for England against Australia and South Africa in a tripartite MLD (Moderate Learning Difficulty) competition Down Under.

**TATTENHALL** have a new 1<sup>st</sup> XI captain in wicket-keeper Roy Sandford, succeeding Rob Mulvihill, who is to be play for Liverpool. Ewan Drake takes the place of Ray Hunt in charge of the twos. Good luck to Clubman of the Year and League rep. Graham Davidson who is to have a hip operation and will be out of action for some time.

A grant application has gone into the ECB for a new three-bay practice net facility.

**TOFT.** Former Academy coach Toby Drummond takes over the captaincy from Andy Bones. All other senior officers have been re-elected.

**URMSTON:** All officers have been re-elected for the club's return to the Premier League. Chairman Rob Arnold's splendid Winter Newsletter contains the following: Match Day sponsorship is offered at £40 plus VAT or £1,000 for major sponsorship status ... Five players currently in Australian grade cricket are Jon Skelley and James Knight-Gregson (Williamstown), Billy Roberts and Luke Durkan (Altona) and Craig Grindley (Joondalup, Perth, where he is now a new immigrant ... .. News awaited on an application for a £37,382 grant for a new three-lane net facility ... Presentation night prize-winners: Mike Neill (Player of Year); Zeeshan Assi (2<sup>nd</sup> XI PofY and Most Improved Player); Sheetal Sethi (3<sup>rd</sup> XI PofY); Tim Murphy (Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> XI PofY); Chris Smith (4<sup>th</sup> XI PofY); James Williams (Clubman); Kris Dickenson (Best Performance by Under 18); Tom Lockett (Best Performance by Under 16).

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**WARRINGTON.** Following their relegation to Division Two for the first time, Warrington have shown confidence in their officers by re-electing all from chairman Gary Musker to 4<sup>th</sup> XI captain Mike Cornelia. Groundsman Paul Agar, who has played for the club in all 35 League seasons, plans to continue in the 2nd XI in 2010.

Former Warrington wicket-keeper Stuart Cummings, now the Rugby League Match Officials Director, was quoted in the *Daily Telegraph* as advocating the introduction of television technology to settle goal line disputes in football. He believes football's reluctance to do this makes them out of step with other major sports like cricket, tennis, rugby union and rugby league. "If anything, it adds to the theatre of sport and also ensures that far more decisions are correct", said the man who was cruelly nicknamed "Scum" by his pals at Walton Lea.

**WIDNES:** Great club servant Robin Faulkner plans to stand down as chairman at the AGM in March, but hopes to continue in another capacity. Ian Spencer carries on as 1<sup>st</sup> XI captain, with Phil Catterall taking over the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI.

Tony Hurdley was named Player of the Year and Alan Duckers Young Player of the Year at a successful and well-attended Annual Dinner when former England seam bowler Mike Hendrick was the guest speaker.

### Handbook advertisements & AGMs

CLUBS or individuals who would like to advertise a 2010 event in the League handbook at preferential rates should contact MTB.

Clubs are reminded that they should provide full lists of elected officers after AGMs have been held. Received so far: Alderley Edge, Ashton on Mersey, Grappenhall, Sale, Stockport Georgians, Tattenhall, Toft, Urmston and Warrington. Please send a copy to League secretary Geoff Wellstead.

### *It's an ill wind ....*

WHILE their televised 3-1 2nd round defeat by Lincoln City brought an end to Northwich Vics' splendid FA Cup run, it meant joy for Urmston chairman Rob Arnold, a lifelong Imp. Rob, who had a quiet gloat at WTB/MTB at the end of the Victoria Stadium match, plans to be at Burnden Park for City's 3rd round tie against Bolton on January 9<sup>th</sup>. ....curse him.

### Forthcoming meetings:

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010:

League management committee at Toft, 8 p.m. (decisions on rule changes etc.)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010:

League Annual General at Bowdon, 8 p.m.

***THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE LEAGUE NEWSLETTER WILL BE  
PUBLISHED IN LATE-JANUARY***