

Twitter: @CheshireCCC

Find us on Facebook

Further information: Jim Law 07900 975826

[www.cheshireccc.org.uk](http://www.cheshireccc.org.uk)



## ***Cheshire County Cricket Club...2019***

### **Cheshire finish runners-up in Western Division**

#### **Win over Oxfordshire ensures Division 1 cricket in 2020**

#### **Cheshire 338 & 80-7 beat Oxfordshire 110 & 307 by 3 wickets *Sunday-Tuesday 1,2,3 September 2019 at Thame CC***

The equation was simple. Win their final game of the season against Oxfordshire at Thame and Cheshire would ensure a top five finish in the Western Division, earning division 1 cricket next year.

That they finished runners-up to Berkshire having reached the halfway stage of the season with no wins, says bags about the hard work and commitment shown by Danny Leech's side to win their last three games.

Led charismatically from the front this was a sound performance at Thame – albeit limping over the line on the final morning, threatening to press the self-destruct button.

With debutants Alex Money and Tom Lawson in the side due to injury, Cheshire put together an impressive first innings of 338, batsman of the year Rob Sehmi scoring his second successive hundred. Sehmi made 145 and Sam Parry 103. Harvey Eltham took 5-121 from a mammoth 33 overs.

The bowlers then responded magnificently with blistering pace from the trio of Lawson, Mike Finan and Ben Gibson ripping through a strong Oxfordshire side, sitting in second place in the table. Finan took 3-32.

For the third game in a row, Leech had the opportunity to enforce the follow on. He did and a far better dig second time round saw the hosts put up 307 – a lead of 79. Lawson took his first Cheshire wickets (3-23) and Finan 3-63 (match figures of 6-95).

What should have been a relatively straightforward third morning then inexplicably became a nervous couple of hours as wickets tumbled. Gareth Andrew took 4-22 as Cheshire slipped to 59-5. Enter Calum Rowe (22) to steady the nerves, hitting 12 off an over as a good-sized third day crowd held its breath.

Then, with all around looking on anxiously, Perry held his nerve to make an unbeaten 23 to see his side over the line by three wickets.

From a difficult start to the Championship season, Cheshire had spectacularly risen to finish as runners-up to Berkshire.

A beaming Cricket Chairman Peter Babbage paid tribute to the hard work. "Danny (Leech) has focussed the lads on what's required," he said. "His enthusiasm has rubbed off on the players and we've a group of players really committed to the cause.

"There's been some quality cricket played at times. Rob Sehmi's form with the bat has been outstanding and the quickies mean we're a real force to be reckoned with. Not too many sides can boast the pace quality we've put out this year."

Babbage also recognised the role played by David Wainwright over the season. "David's brought quality and experience to the side. He's quiet, unassuming and a real asset in the dressing room."

Cheshire's resurgence mean they join champions Berkshire, Wiltshire, Dorset and Oxfordshire in the new Western Division 1 next year with Cornwall, Devon, Wales MC, Herefordshire and Shropshire in division 2.

\*\*\*

### **Cheshire end of season awards 2019**

The traditional end of season awards was held during Cheshire's final game of the season at Thame in Oxfordshire. Winners were:

Batsman of the year: Rob Sehmi (Toft)

Bowler of the year: Simon Normanton (Stockport Georgians)

Sandy Scrimgeour Award: Ben Gibbon (Oulton Park)

Sponsor's award v Devon: David Wainwright (Castleford)

Sponsor's award v Shropshire: Rob Sehmi (Toft)

Sponsor's award v Oxfordshire: Sam Perry (Alderley Edge)

### **2019 fixtures:**

#### **Unicorns Counties Twenty20 Competition 2019 (double headers)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Opposition</b>	<b>Venue</b>
5 May (A)	Cumberland	Carlisle – lost 2 games
19 May (H)	Staffordshire	Nantwich – won 1, lost 1
9 June (A)	Northumberland	Jesmond – lost 2 games
16 June (H)	Lincolnshire	New Brighton – won 1, 1 abandoned

#### **Unicorns Counties KO Trophy 2019**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Opposition</b>	<b>Venue</b>
-------------	-------------------	--------------

12 May (H)	Northumberland	Toft – won by 33 runs
2 June (A)	Lincolnshire	Bracebridge Heath, Lincoln – lost by 6 wickets

Note: \* Provisional - if successful in earlier rounds

### Unicorns Counties Championship (Western Division) 2019

Date	Opposition	Venue
23/24/25 June (H)	Wiltshire	Chester Boughton Hall – match drawn
7/8/9 July (A)	Dorset	Chapel Gate, Bournemouth – Dorset won by 174 runs
21/22/23 July (A)	Berkshire	Finchampstead – lost b7 148 runs
4/5/6 August (H)	Devon	Alderley Edge – Cheshire won by an innings and 7 runs
18/19/20 August (H)	Shropshire	Nantwich – Cheshire won by an innings and 31 runs
1/2/3 September (A)	Oxfordshire	Thame – Cheshire won by 3 wickets

### MCCA Western Division – Final League Table 2019

1. Berkshire 126
2. Cheshire 91
3. Wiltshire 82
4. Oxfordshire 81
5. Dorset 79

-----

6. Cornwall 74
7. Devon 69
8. Wales MC 65
9. Herefordshire 59
10. Shropshire 48

From 2020:

- Minor Counties becomes the National Counties Cricket Association
- The current Eastern and Western divisions of ten sides will each be split into two tiers of five sides

- Each side will play four games a season (currently six), with the bottom side being relegated/top side in lower division being promoted
- A final will be contested between the Western and Eastern Division 1 champions
- There will be an increase in KO Trophy 50 over matches by reverting to a group stage/quarter/semi-final format (as previous), replacing the current straight knock out. Counties will be guaranteed at least two home matches.
- The T20 format will be retained with four groups of five (different to KO Trophy groups) – the winners going straight to final's day.

[www.cheshireccc.org.uk](http://www.cheshireccc.org.uk)

Twitter: @CheshireCCC Find us on Facebook

Further information: Jim Law 07900 975826