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Cheshire County Cricket Club...2019

Double defeat in Carlisle

T20 side beaten in opening double-header

Not the start Cheshire wanted as they backfired badly in their first Unicorn T20 games of the summer.

Rick Moore's side finished a poor second in both games with Cumberland and will now look to push for maximum points against Staffordshire, Northumberland and Lincolnshire.

The only consolation from two below-par performances was the form of new recruit, David Wainwright who joined the Club in the winter. The ex-Yorkshire slow left-arter bowled tightly in both innings and top scored with the bat.

Cumberland skipper Gary Pratt amassed 72 in the first match as his side set a target of 145. Moore was the pick of seven bowlers, taking 2-23. The Cheshire innings never got going as they finished on 107-9, Wainwright and Jamie Crawley making 23.

Things went from bad to worse second time round with Cumberland's seemingly gettable 115-8 proving too much of a challenge. Wainwright's controlled four over spell (1-9) was in vain as the batsmen again mis-fired with in a total of 88 all out. Wainwright made 19, Martyn East 14 and Luke Robinson 13.

"It just didn't happen for us," said Moore. "Apart from David (Wainwright) looking the part, we just didn't step up to it. We know we have to perform better and at least we're straight back into it next week."

That will be a 50 over KO Trophy game against Northumberland at Toft (11.00am, 12 May) as Cheshire start their defence of the trophy they won so spectacularly at Wormsley last September.

2019 fixtures:

Unicorns Counties Twenty20 Competition 2019 (double headers)

Date	Opposition	Venue
5 May (A)	Cumberland	Carlisle
19 May (H)	Staffordshire	Nantwich
9 June (A)	Northumberland	Jesmond
16 June (H)	Lincolnshire	New Brighton
25 August	Finals Day	Wormsley

Unicorns Counties KO Trophy 2019

Date	Opposition	Venue
12 May (H)	Northumberland	Toft
2 June * (A)	Lincolnshire	Bracebridge Heath, Lincoln
30 June * (H)	Shropshire or Cumberland	Chester Boughton Hall
11 August * (H)	Cambridge, Herefordshire, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Staffordshire or Suffolk	Alderley Edge
28 August (*)	Final	Wormsley

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
7/8/9 July (A)	Dorset	Chapel Gate, Bournemouth
21/22/23 July (A)	Berkshire	Finchampstead
4/5/6 August (H)	Devon	Alderley Edge

18/19/20 August (H)	Shropshire	Nantwich
1/2/3 September (A)	Oxfordshire	Thame

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.

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