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

### **Moore steers Cheshire to victory**

#### **33 run win over Northumberland sets up Lincolnshire trip**

***Cheshire 257-7 (50 overs), Northumberland 224 (46.4 overs). Cheshire won by 33 runs.***

Cheshire got their defence of the Unicorns KO Trophy underway with a 33 run win over Northumberland at Toft.

Having won the trophy in dramatic style against Devon last season, Rick Moore's side successfully moved on from two dismal T20 performances seven days earlier to secure their place in round two and a trip to Lincolnshire.

Moore led from the front with a patient 94, a day after his 30<sup>th</sup> birthday and although Adam Hickey eclipsed that with a fine 112, Cheshire held their nerve to get over the line.

Winning the toss and batting first, it was an unspectacular but workmanlike innings that saw Cheshire score what seemed a par 257-7 from 50 overs. Will Evans (39) and Calum Rowe (26) built a solid start with Evans first to go at 75. Once Rowe departed it was Moore and Jamie Crawley (36) who produced the partnership of the innings, adding 102 for the third wicket.

The returning Simon Normanton boosted things at the death with a quick-fire 18 as Northumberland rotated seven bowlers.

Hickey's 112 threatened but the visitors lost wickets at crucial times and were always just behind the rate. James Thompson managed 41 but there was limited support from the tail and when Hickey was eighth out on 210, any late hope was diffused. Chris Sanders marked his return to the side with 4-43 and there were two wickets for local boy Andy Jackson and Normanton.

Whilst still not at full strength, this was a far better performance from Cheshire. "I thought we worked hard for this one," said Moore. "It was important to get back to winning ways and obviously we want to put up a good defence in this competition after winning it last year. I was really pleased for Chris (Sanders) who came into the side and showed some real pace too."

Cheshire now progress to a second-round tie with Lincolnshire at Bracebridge Heath CC on Sunday 2 June.

**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
9 June (A)	Northumberland	Jesmond
16 June (H)	Lincolnshire	New Brighton
25 August	Finals Day	Wormsley

**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
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**

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