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Cheshire County Cricket Club...2019

One each as Cheshire and Staffordshire share T20 spoils

Having convincingly swept to a seven wicket win in their morning game with Staffordshire, Cheshire lost by 12 runs second time around leaving them with work do to qualify from their T20 group.

Cumberland's double disposal of Northumberland, having defeated Cheshire twice a fortnight ago puts them in the driving seat.

Reducing Staffordshire to 171-8 first time around saw Lloyd Aspin take 3-25 on debut after Pete Wilshaw had threatened to take things out of Cheshire's reach with 61. Skipper Sam Kelsall made 40 but 171-8 felt about 20 runs short.

Will Evans knuckled down with a fine unbeaten 70 and good contributions from Rick Moore (35) and Ed Fluck (36) saw the hosts home with a couple of overs to spare.

In the second game, Wilshaw again went off like a train as he and fellow opener Matt Morris both made 52. David Wainwright took 3-30.

This time round, chasing 186 proved tougher in a game that ebbed and flowed. Toft's Rob Sehmi hit an excellent 61 but a couple of run outs saw the charge strangled until Jamie Crawley (37) and Aspin (20) gave late hope.

It was the outstanding Brinder Phagura who finally saw off the challenge with fine bowling of 3-24 plus a hand in both run outs, as Chester were all out 12 runs short.

How they stand:

	Played	Won	Points
Cumberland	4	4	8
Lincolnshire	2	2	4
Staffordshire	2	1	2
Cheshire	4	1	2
Northumberland	4	0	0

2019 fixtures:

Unicorns Counties Twenty20 Competition 2019 (double headers)

Date	Opposition	Venue
5 May (A)	Cumberland	Carlisle – lost 2 games
19 May (H)	Staffordshire	Nantwich – won 1, lost 1
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 – 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

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
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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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