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Cheshire County Cricket Club...2019

Double T20 defeat at Northumberland

Two seven wicket defeats end T20 aspirations

Sunday 9 June 2019, Newcastle CC (Jesmond)

Having defeated Northumberland in the 50 over competition earlier in the season, Cheshire succumbed to the same side twice in their T20 double header at Jesmond.

Rick Moore's team went down by seven wickets in both games, unable to defend scores of 166-8 and 158-7, both perhaps 20-30 runs short.

The first game saw the returning Ollie Law shine, resuming his old role of opener. Law top scored with a fine 88 which included seven 6s and three 4s, departing in the 19th over. Ed Fluck hit 25 and Moore 22.

Northumberland's reply struggled briefly as Andrew Jackson and Simon Normanton applied the breaks but with wickets in hand, a couple of big overs late on saw them home with an over to spare, Chris Peareth hitting 97.

Second time around, Fluck made 60 and Jamie Crawley 40*. Moore shuffled his bowling pack to no avail as Northumberland again got home with an over to spare (Adam Hickey 83).

"We've struggled in our T20 games a bit this year," said a philosophical Rick Moore. "We've missed a few players, particularly bowlers and found it hard at times.

"There have been some plusses though as we've blooded a few youngsters – the likes of Ben Gibbon and Rob Sehmi. It was great too to be able to get Ollie Law back in the front line.

"We'll take on Lincolnshire at New Brighton next Sunday with our heads held high and then it'll be down to the important business of the three day championship. We're looking forward to that, starting with Wiltshire at Chester in a couple of weeks."

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 – lost 2 games
16 June (H)	Lincolnshire	New Brighton

Unicorns Counties KO Trophy 2019

Date	Opposition	Venue
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
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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