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Further information: Jim Law 07900 975826

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Cheshire County Cricket Club...2019

Cheshire on a roll with second big win

Innings victory over Shropshire moves Cheshire to fourth

**Cheshire 479-8, Shropshire 274 & 174. Cheshire won by an innings and 31 runs.
Sunday-Tuesday 18,19,20 at Nantwich CC**

Cheshire gave their hopes of a top five finish and qualification for Western League Division 1 in 2020 a major boost with a thumping win over Shropshire at Nantwich.

For the second game running, Danny Leech's side romped home by an innings and with planned changes to the league next year, Cheshire moving into fourth place means victory in their final game against Oxfordshire will see them confirm their position in the top division.

Shropshire will have rued their decision to put Cheshire into bat on the first morning as Rob Sehmi blasted 122 well supported by local boy Luke Robinson (76), 71 each from David Wainwright and Will Evans and an unbeaten 51 from Simon Normanton. Cheshire's total of 479-8 was their second highest in the Championship, (highest being 502-8 v Herefordshire at Alderley Edge in 2018).

It was exhibition stuff from the big hitters against a shell-shocked attack that did at least see Warrick Fynn take 4-157.

Searching for 330 to avoid the follow on, Shropshire managed 274, Normanton taking 4-60 and Ben Gibbon 3-55 with Matt Swift carrying his bat for 92 and Xavier Clarke striking 61.

Going for the jugular, Leech then enforced the follow-on and his bowlers again did him proud. Shropshire fell for 174, Normanton's 4-28 producing match figures of 8-88. Rick Moore weighed in with 3-39.

Clarke stood firm again with 52 but it was a convincing win for the home side.

"An excellent all-round performance continuing the momentum from the Devon game," commented Cricket Chairman, Pete Babbage.

"The application from the whole side was first class with contributions throughout. Having lost an early wicket our players knuckled down to post a formidable score and those there to see it would have enjoyed a great display from our batsmen.

“We’re really thrilled that the hard work put in since losing two games is now coming to fruition. And it’s great to see the youngsters scoring runs, taking wickets and really enjoying their cricket.”

Next stop for Cheshire is Thame in Oxfordshire in two weeks where Leech’s side can clinch that top division place that looked to be eluding them earlier in the season.

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 – won 1, 1 abandoned

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 – 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

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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