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

### **Season of change awaits as Cheshire seek further progress**

- **Landmark year as Minor Counties set to become the National Counties Cricket Association from 2020**
- **Relegation and promotion introduced to the Championship**
- **Ex-Yorkshire and slow left-armed David Wainwright joins Cheshire**

After a successful 2018 Cheshire are looking forward to a busy season.

Rick Moore's one day side won the 50 over KO Trophy and were T20 runners up while Danny Leech's three-day Championship team made steady progress.

Some exciting talent was unearthed with Furqan Shafiq and Jamie Crawley leading the batting plaudits and off spinner Simon Normanton heading the bowling honours.

Will Evans had a storming year as he thrashed 183 in a KO Trophy quarter final at Chester, while records fell at Alderley Edge with Crawley (173) and Shafiq (207) making a fourth wicket stand of 339. Meantime Normanton took 31 wickets in all competitions.

2018 also saw the emergence of Formby quickie Ben Aitchison who will look to at least partly fill the boots of departing Wayne White, while Danny Woods finally called it a day after a final season that brought him 30 Championship wickets from just four games.

The quiet unassuming left-armed leaves a huge gap hopefully to be filled with the recruitment of David Wainwright. With 181 first class wickets and 2,270 runs under his belt from spells at Yorkshire (2004-2011), Derbyshire (2012-2016) and more recently with Shropshire, he'll bring a new angle to Cheshire's attack and bags of experience.

"David is a quality player and we're really looking forward to having him in the camp this year," said Cricket Chairman, Pete Babbage. "He's played at the highest level and he'll be an asset to us on and off the pitch as he'll also help with coaching."

One-day skipper Rick Moore added, "His versatility will be a great asset in all types of the game and we've a number of exciting (and experienced) cricketers who will benefit from having him around."

On the forthcoming changes that will see both the Western and Eastern Championship divisions split into two, Danny Leech explained "It's imperative we finish in the top five of the league this year so we can compete in the top tier in 2020. The new structure will ensure the

best teams always play against each other whereas in the past you could win the league without necessarily facing the leading sides.”

Cheshire’s season gets underway from 5 May with one-day cricket taking early season precedence. The three-day campaign starts at the end of June.

Home games are sprinkled across the county and include Chester Boughton Hall, Alderley Edge, Nantwich, Toft and New Brighton.

**2019 fixtures:**

**Unicorns Counties Twenty20 Competition 2019 (double headers)**

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

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

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

### Changes take effect from 2020

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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