

Sale had to be content with two draws in Saturday's fixtures in the Cheshire County Cricket league as neither side were able to force a win as the season reached its half way point.

IS Recruitment sponsored Sale 1st XI travelled to Bramhall and elected to field first. Whilst the home side added 65 for the first wicket Sale kept the scoring rate down meaning at the half way stage the home side were 72-2.

Greg Dixon (82) and Nick Cantello (56) then added 102 for the third wicket to put Bramhall in a strong position.

Dan Newton then took 4-48 as wickets fell in the pursuit of quick runs, the home side closing on 192-7.

Sale were up with the required rate for much of the innings with Tyrone Lawrence looking well set, however when he was 6th man out for 60 Sale were still 72 runs short of their target, eventually electing to bat out for the draw at 162-8.

Sale 2nd XI dominated their match with second placed Romiley at Dane Road, but were unable to force the win on another belter of a batting track.

The in-form Mike Bishop led the way for Sale as his 85 not out proved the anchor innings for Sale as they posted 219 all out in the final over. Joe Molloy and Rob Grant, both with 30, were the main supporting acts.

Despite a stand of 89 for 3rd wicket Romiley were never up with the rate as they struggled against the guile of leg-spinner Rick Halkon. He took 4-31 from his 15 overs, but Sale could get enough wickets at the other end as the visitors batted out at 176-8.

Fortunately for Sale the 14 points secured were enough for Sale to leap frog Romiley into 2nd place in the league.

On Sunday Sale 3rd XI lost a tight game at home to Toft after restricting them to 163-9.

Sale were going well thanks to a run-a-ball 52 from Asad Khan and 35 from skipper Ian Habershon.

Lionel Thompson marshalled the lower order to within 6 runs of victory, but when he fell for 28 a run-out 1 run later left Sale short of their target with one over left.

Sale 4th XI lost at Bowdon after bowling the home side out for 167, Callum Ross (4-55) and Will Radcliffe (3-25) doing the damage.

In reply Sale were bowled out for 140, Jonathan Dickens with 27 fighting a rear-guard action.

Earlier in the week Sale Silverbacks won their second game in as many weeks against high flying Grappenhall after restricting them to 121-5 in their 20 overs.

Sale coasted home with over 3 overs to spare, openers Mark Rowe and Mike Bishop both hitting 31 retired and Ian Habershon 27.

On Saturday Sale travelled to Macclesfield and the 2nd XI welcome Timperley to Dane Road. On Sunday the 3rd XI visit Hyde and the 4th XI host Widnes.