

After two weeks of rain affected frustration, the sun came out at last and Sale were soon back into top gear as they won all three games over the weekend. Vital wins for the 2nd and 3rd teams kept them in contention for honours with two weeks of the season to go.

IS Recruitment sponsored Sale 1st XI wrapped up a comfortable 6 wicket win at Congleton and look destined to finish in mid table. Dan Newton setting the tone as he removed both home openers cheaply as the home side slumped to 22-3.

Muhamad Bashir top scored with 59 at number 3, but he got little support as Sale bowled out Congleton for 137 in the 46th over.

Spinners Isaac Brooks and James Dodds controlled the middle overs, picking up two wickets each before Newton returned to clean up the tail and finish with 5-18 from 13 overs.

Despite losing 3 batsmen to ducks Sale never looked in serious trouble as opener Viraj Sorathia hit an unbeaten 58, adding 100 for the 4th wicket with Newton. Newton adding 54 to his 5 wickets earlier in the day to wrap up the 25 points for Sale.

Sale 2nd XI remain in 2nd place in division one of the Cheshire County league after a win against Upton, remaining 11 points clear of Romiley in pursuit of promotion to the premier division.

Sale did well to bowl the visitors out for 170 at Dane Road after they made a promising start, Ben Watkin taking 3-48 and skipper Gareth Watterson with a brace with the last 7 wickets only contributing 19 runs between them.

Sale looked in trouble after losing leading top run scorer Mike Bishop cheaply, but the in-form Rob Grant showed his class hitting an unbeaten 80 to get Sale to their target with an over to spare. Joe Cannon with a late order 26 making a vital contribution.

Sale 3rd XI moved back to the top of the Sunday premier division with a good win at Toft, although they will need second placed Didsbury to drop points to be crowned Sunday champions as they have a game in hand.

Openers Jamie Coombes (26) and Saad Khan (28) got Sale off to a solid start before 4 quick wickets saw Sale slump to 65-4.

Mike Bishop (43) and skipper Ian Habershon (37) then added 84 runs for the 5th wicket to put Sale back on track, being bowled out for 185 in the final over.

The visitors looked to be coasting at 72-2 until Grant Whittaker bowled Jonah Wasilewski for 35, this prompted a collapse to 130 all out. The last seven batsmen only contributed 10 runs, three of whom were run out as Sale closed out the game by 55 runs.

Next Saturday Sale host promotion chasing Bollington and the 2nd XI travel to Stockport Georgians, and on Sunday the 3rd XI conclude their season at home to Hyde.