

Sale 1st XI fell agonisingly short in a high scoring game against Urmston in the Cheshire County League on Saturday. Sale fell 2 runs short in their run chase and had to settle for a draw as the season reached its halfway point despite a magnificent 149 not out from Patrick Ashling.

IS Recruitment sponsored Sale asked the visitors to bat first on a wicket full of runs, Urmston opener Harry Singh keen to continue his run scoring exploits from Lancashire 2nd XI from earlier in the week.

After a delayed start the revised 90 over contest saw the early loss of Josh Espley to Dan Newton, before Singh (42), Gautam Narayanan (48) and Lewis Jackson (60) ensured the visitors posted a competitive 226-5 in 45 overs.

Sale got off to a great start as Pat Ashling and James Dodds added 128 for the first wicket.

Ashling was once again in dominant form, reaching 88 before Dodds was first man out for 32 as he gloved Sam Tootell behind.

Sale then lost two further wickets in quick succession as Tyrone Lawrence was given LBW following an apologetic appeal and Dan Newton holed out in the boundary.

Gareth Davies (25) then added 64 with Ashling, who by this time had reached a deserved century.

Despite the best efforts of Ashling, who finished unbeaten on 149, Sale couldn't scramble the extra 2 runs needed, losing a couple of wickets to desperate run outs as they closed on 225-8.

Sale picked up 7 points to Urmston's 14.

Sale 2nd XI picked up a good win at Oulton Park after bowling the home side out for 179 in the 40th over.

Sam Baker got Sale off to a great start with 3 early wickets before a fifth wicket stand of 103 saw the home side recover to 141-5. Enter Ian Habershon, whose 5-22 off just 5 overs finished off the home side.

Sale started in confident mood with both openers (Joe Molloy and Jamie Coombes) making 26. New signing Amjad Khan then hit an entertaining 44 off 25 balls before 3 quick wickets gave Oulton Park hope.

Habershon (34) and skipper Gareth Watterson then steadied the ship as Sale reached their target for the loss of 7 wickets with 20 overs to spare.

The 3rd XI had no match due to Sale hosting North West Thunder vs Northern Diamonds, so the Sunday focus fell on Sale 4th XI who lost at Davenham despite posting a competitive 175-6.

Zikria Nadeem was the pick for Sale on his return to the side, hitting 94.

Sale had the home side in trouble before an unbeaten 5th wicket stand saw them home in the 38th over.

Earlier in the week Sale Silverbacks kept their winning run going at a damp Timperley.

In a game reduced to 15 overs per side the home posted a challenging 137-4.

Sale made short work of the reply, changing down the total for the loss of 1 wicket, with 8 balls to spare. Mike Bishop and Ian Dix both hit 33 retired before Ian Habershon (27 not out) and Soans Praveen (23 not out) got Sale home.

On Saturday Sale visit Lindow and the 2nd XI host Neston.