

Sale had the better of their drawn game with Congleton in the Cheshire County league on Saturday thanks to a fine all round performance from Dan Newton, but couldn't dislodge the final two wickets on another fine Dane Road surface.

IS Recruitment sponsored Sale were asked to bat first and made a confident start, Sam Battersby and Tyrone Lawrence taking the score to 73-1 before Lawrence was trapped LBW for 28.

Battersby was next out, agonisingly run out one short of a half century with the score on 114.

Gareth Davies added a useful 34 before Sam Hunt and Dan Newton pressed the accelerator. Newton with 63 not out from 41 balls and Hunt with 45 off 49 balls ensured Sale posted 248-5 in their 50 overs.

Congleton reached 47 with little trouble against the seamers, before spinners James Dodds and Ben Watkin took two quick wickets to make it 58-2.

Ben Heades (33) and Tom Leese (61) then took the score to 106, before the late introduction of Dan Newton saw the breakthrough as the visitors slumped to 132-6.

Despite some late order hitting from Jack Goode (39) Congleton could only manage 209-8, Sale collecting 14 points to Congleton's 7. Newton finished the leading bowler with 3-30 to add to his runs earlier in the day.

Sale 2nd XI beat bottom of the table Upton to maintain their recent good form, but not without a scare along the way.

The first innings went largely to plan once Sale had introduced their twin spin attack of Rick Halkon and Rob Grant. From 71-1 the home side subsided to 157 all out in the 47th over.

Halkon with 5-40 and Grant with 4-41 ran through the Upton innings.

The extra overs accrued from bowling Upton out proved useful as Sale slumped to 51-4 in reply.

Skipper Gareth Watterson then hit 38 out of a stand for 68 with Joe Molloy.

Molloy was next to go for 48, leaving Joe Cannon (20 not out) to see Sale home in the 51st over.

On Sunday Sale lost their top of the table clash against Romiley.

Romiley posted 182-9 in their 45 overs, Lionel Thompson leading bowler with 3-47.

Sale's miss firing top order once again left the reply in trouble at 11-4, but this week the lower order couldn't turn the game around despite the efforts of Inshaf Deen (37) and Thompson (29).

Sale were finally bowled out for 138 with 3 overs to go.

Sale 4th XI's scheduled match at Northwich was postponed after a number of the home side's team were required to self-isolate.

Earlier in the week Sale Silverbacks lost a one sided contest at Urmston, the only high light being 3-23 from stand in captain Ian Habershon.

On Saturday Sale 1st XI visit Bollington and the 2nd XI host Stockport Georgians. On Sunday the 3rd XI travel to Heaton Mersey and the 4th XI host Lymm.