

Sale 2nd XI secured a place in the Cheshire County league premier division in 2022 after a nail-biting draw at third placed Romiley.

IS Recruitment sponsored Sale went into the final match with an 11-point advantage knowing they needed to avoid defeat and pick up sufficient bonus points to finish in second place.

Sale won the all-important toss and elected to field first. The home side made a confident start adding 82 for the first wicket and progressing to 180-3. Rob Brooker hitting 80 at the top of the order.

Sale then picked up several quick wickets as the home side declared in 208-7 to prevent a final bowling bonus point for Sale. Skipper Gareth Wattereson, Ben Watkin and Joe Cannon taking 2 wickets each.

Despite the early loss of Ben Watkin Sale raced to 50-1 in even time before the loss of both Connor D'Ath (32) and Mike Bishop (26) saw Sale slump to 59-3.

This soon became 98-6 as a batting collapse left them on the brink. Ian Habershon and Saad Khan then started the rebuilding efforts taking the score up to 143 before Habershon was caught for 40.

Khan then showed maturity beyond his years to marshal the tail to bat out the remaining overs and secure promotion. When he fell for 38 in the final over Sale needed number 11 Max Bishop was left to see off the final 3 balls to secure the 7 points needed to go up.

Sale 1st XI enjoyed a fine finish to the season with their third win in a row and had a major influence on the final placings despite only finishing in sixth place.

After beating contenders Bollington last week Sale comfortably defeated league leaders Bramhall, allowing fellow Trafford clubs Brooklands and Bowdon to leapfrog them into the promotion berths.

Sale were asked to bat first and posted a below par 191 all out in the final over after Viraj Sorathia (77) and Gareth Davies (70) had added 119 for the second wicket, with none of the final 8 batsmen reaching double figures.

Despite a modest total scoreboard pressure proved Bramhall's undoing as they slumped to 163 all out. Skipper Nick Cantello top scored with 39 as Isaac Brooks (4-30), Tyrone Lawrence (3-45) and James Dodds (3-43) ran through the visitors line up.

Despite finishing sixth Sale were only a couple of wins off the promotion places in a season badly affected by weather and covid and were left to wonder what might have been in a more normal season.