

With Saturday's cricket fixtures being postponed under the Cheshire County league's Covid protocols the focus turned to the top of the Sunday Premier league as Sale 3rd XI took on Stockport Georgians at Dane Road.

IS Recruitment sponsored Sale asked Georgians to bat first, who took a liking to conditions reaching 80-1 in even time. Two quick wickets then pegged back the score to make it 88-3, a second for young off spinner Callum Ross and a first for Tom Riley.

Riley removed top scorer Saj Hussain for 51, in a spell of 4 wickets for 36, the final two of which fell with the score on 119 as Sale took control.

Georgians then rallied, adding a further 80 runs to close on 199-6 in 45 overs.

Sale made the worst possible start after the break, quickly finding themselves on 10-2.

Thankfully for Sale they had two old heads to steady the ship as Asad Khan and Ian Habershon added 106 for the 3rd wicket.

Khan was first to go for 69 off 75 balls. Skipper Habershon was then then joined by Inshaf Deen who added a brisk 33.

When Habershon was finally dismissed for 70 Sale only needed 4 more runs, which they duly knocked off with 9 balls to spare.

The win moved Sale to the top of the premier division, albeit having played a game more than their nearest rivals.

Sale 4th XI enjoyed a close game against Trafford Metrovics 3s, losing by 3 runs.

The home side posted 200 off their 40 overs, Sale failing to reach their target despite 59 not out from Tom Moakler and 57 from Theo Brodbeck.

Earlier in the week Sale Silverbacks lost both their games in the over 40s competition. On Wednesday they failed to overhaul Cheadle Hulme's 143-2 despite Asad Khan and Ian Habershon both hitting 30 retired.

Then on Thursday they finished 17 runs short of Davenham, Khan again retiring on 30 after Paul Hanrahan had taken two wickets in the first innings.

On Saturday Sale meet Grappenhall in a double header, the 1st XI's meeting at Dane Road and the 2nds at Broad Lane. On Sunday Sale 3rd XI travel to Alderley Edge and the 4th XI welcome Trafford Metrovics to Dane Road.