

Sale 2nd XI consolidated second place in division one of the Cheshire County league on Saturday with a win over Timperley. Despite a valiant last wicket stand Sale won by 53 runs to keep their unbeaten run going.

IS Recruitment sponsored Sale were asked to bat first in a game reduced to 90 overs due to early morning rain and soon made up for lost time, Dattu Vadakutte and Ben Watkin adding 87 for the first wicket.

Watkin was the first to go for a run-a-ball 54. A rare failure for Mike Bishop (14) was soon followed by two wickets with the score on 115, including Vadakutte for 38.

Grant Whittaker (30 off 21 balls) and skipper Gareth Watterson (37 off 35 balls) then pressed the accelerator as Sale closed on an imposing 220-7 off 45 overs.

Timperley were never in the hunt as leg spinner Rick Halkon took 4 of the first 5 wickets to fall as the visitors slumped to 47-5.

Watkin then got in on the act taking 3 wickets to leave Timperley on the brink at 98-9. Tom Matthews and Richard Page then fought a valiant rear-guard action to add 69 for the final wicket.

However Sale were not to be denied as Joe Cannon took a smart caught and bowled to dismiss Matthews for 62 and secure the 25 points.

Sale 1st XI suffered a disappointing defeat at Macclesfield after bowling the home side out for 186. James Dodds with 3-57 was the leading bowler.

Nothing went right after the break as Macclesfield skittled Sale for 96, thanks in part to several very well held catches. Connor De'Ath top scored with 26 on his 1st XI debut and Dodds added an unbeaten 20 to his wickets in the first innings.

Constant rain on Sunday saw both the 3rd XI match at Hyde and the 4th XI encounter with Widnes cancelled without a ball being bowled.

Earlier in the week a depleted Sale Silverbacks lost at league leaders Toft. Regular wicket keeper Mark Rowe took 3-13 with the ball at Toft posted 149.

A run-a-ball 31 from Chris Smith was the highlight for the Silverbacks as they closed on 107-4.

Saturday sees a double header against Warrington, the 1st XI's meeting at Dane Road and the reverse fixture taking place at Walton Lea. On Sunday the 3rd XI head down to Nantwich and the 4th XI entertain Timperley.