

Sale had to settle for a draw against Timperley in the Cheshire County league on Saturday in a game that could easily have gone to either side.

Timperley won the toss and made the unusual decision to bat first and soon found conditions to their liking as they raced to 120-2, helped by some lax fielding from the home side.

Sale's twin spin attack of Ben Watkin and James Dodds then made the breakthrough. Watkin holding a return catch off top scorer Jamie Matthews.

Dodds then claimed 4 wickets in tandem with the returning Dan Newton who picked up 3 late wickets to restrict the visitors to a very chasable 215 all out.

Sale got off to a flying start as Patrick Ashling raced to 42 in a stand of 70 with Dodds, before 3 quick wickets including a disastrous run out of Newton left the home side on 74-3.

Tyrone Lawrence and Gareth Davies took the score to 137, but the loss of Lawrence for 32 prompted another flurry of wickets as Davies batted out for 47 not out as Sale closed on 170-8 and finished with 8 points.

There was a remarkable turnaround at Bowdon as Sale's 2nd XI recovered from 24-4 to post 169-6. Mike Bishop (56) and Josh Patel (47 not out) adding 82 for the 5th wicket, and Elliot Norris hitting a quick-fire 33.

In reply the home team had no answer to seamer Patel who ripped through the Bowdon line up with 6-14 off 7 overs as the home side were rolled for 45.

On Sunday last season's top two side in the county met as Sale 3rd XI visited Didsbury. Sale did well to bowl the home side out for 155, skipper Ian Habershon and Tom Riley taking 3 wickets a piece. Habershon provided the mainstay of the reply, hitting 56 as Sale could only muster 127-9 and 7 points.

Sale 4th XI in contrast had a convincing win over Widnes 3s, Jon Saunders taking 4-25 as the visitors were restricted to 114-7. Sale coasted home by 9 wickets, Naman Mudaliar 46 not out.

Earlier in the week Sale Silverback nearly snatched victory from the jaws of defeat at Toft. After posting a below par 89 off 18 overs (Soans Praveen 29 not out), Ian Holland took the game down to the final over with 3-9.

Next Saturday Sale 1st XI visit Cheadle and the 2nd XI play the return fixture at Dane Road.