

Sale suffered a narrow defeat in a game that could have gone either way at new league leaders Bollington. The Cheshire County league encounter on Saturday produced a tense finish as the home side won by two wickets.

IS Recruitment sponsored Sale made a slow start against the Bollington attack and found themselves at 62-3 when top scorer Tyrone Lawrence was dismissed for 35.

Sam Hunt (23) led the search for quick runs, who along with Dan Newton and Rob Grant got the rate up to a run-a-ball. However the search for quick runs also yielded wickets, as Sale were dismissed for a below par 151 in the 49th over.

Sale made the perfect start as Lawrence and Newton removed both openers for 9 runs. Harri Dickinson and James Longhorn led the recovery taking the score to 64 before the crucial passage of play.

Longhorn was first to go for 19, soon followed by Dickinson for 43, both trapped LBW by spinners James Dodds and Isaac Brooks.

In between Jerome Jones survived a strong appeal for caught behind, the not out decision proving crucial as his 45 runs got the home side within 11 runs of victory, and despite the clatter of 2 further wickets Bollington got home with 2 wickets to spare.

In contrast the 2nd XI kept their good run going with a comfortable 8 wicket win at home to Stockport Georgians.

Sale's well balanced attack kept the run rate down, and despite an unbeaten 56 from Faisal Shah restricted the visitors to 171-7 in their 50 overs.

Sale were in no mood to hang around in the second innings as Connor De'Ath and Joe Molloy added 81 for the first wicket before De'Ath fell one short of a deserved first half century for Sale.

After Molloy fell for 34 it was left to Mike Bishop (52 not out) and Ben Watkins (23 not out) to see Sale home with over 17 overs to spare.

Sale 3rd XI completed an even more one sided game at Heaton Mersey on Sunday after they routed the home side for 87. Skipper Ian Habershon (5-12) and Tom Riley (3-24) were the chief tormentors.

Sale then coasted home for the loss of 3 wickets, Dattu Vadakutte top scoring with 49 not out.

Sale 4th XI lost at home to Lymm 3s despite having the visitors in trouble at 71-6 and 112-8 as some powerful lower order hitting saw Lymm reach 198 all out. Jonny Dickens (4-24) and Theo Brodbeck (3-25) were the leading bowlers.

Sale were never up with the rate and despite a breezy 42 not out from skipper Will Radcliffe could only reach 145-8.

Earlier in the week Sale Silverbacks got their first win of the season at fellow strugglers Alderley Edge. Stand-in skipper Paul Hanrahan proving the difference with 3-1 and 33 retired off 15 balls as Sale won with 5 wickets and 2 overs in hand.

On Saturday Sale 1st XI visit Bramhall and the 2nd XI welcome Romiley to Dane Road. On Sunday the 3rd XI entertain Toft, whilst the 4th XI visit Bowdon.