

Sale saw contrasting fortunes in their double header against Warrington on Saturday. Numerous rain interruptions meant that the 1st XI clash at Dane Road petered out to a draw, whilst the 2nd XI forced a win with a dominant display at Walton Lea.

The 1st XI match at Sale saw a moment of history as a SIS hybrid pitch was used for the first time in the Cheshire County league, albeit after a short delay as the game was reduced to 92 overs following a rain delayed start.

Warrington skipper Jonathan Fletcher certainly found the hybrid pitch to his liking as he hit a season's best 152 off 118 balls as the visitors posted 234-5.

Sale had got off to a great start as Rick Halkon took two early wickets on his return to the 1st XI to reduce the visitors to 1-2 before Fletcher and Nick Liddle rebuild the innings.

Young spinner James Dodds made the breakthrough removing Liddle for 25 after they had added 98 for the 3rd wicket. The pivotal moment came soon after as Fletcher survived a big should for LBW after reaching his century, so instead of chasing under 200 the target was 235. Halkon was the pick of the bowling with 3-53.

Their task was made harder by the loss of 12 overs from the second innings after more rain interruptions, Sale eventually reaching 121-4. Tyrone Lawrence finishing on 47 not out.

Sale 2nd XI made light work of the return fixture, winning by 150 runs in a game reduced to 90 overs. Viraj Sorathia hit 57 at the top of the innings and the consistent Mike Bishop scored 47 as Sale posted 203-4 in 45 overs.

Despite a valiant rear guard action Warrington were dispatched for 53 in the second innings, spinners Rob Grant (4-13) and Ben Watkin (4-5) doing the damage as Sale consolidated 2nd place in division one.

On Sunday Sale 3rd XI picked up 13 points as they had the better of a drawn game at Nantwich, skipper Ian Habershon hitting 106 and Jamie Coombes 34 as Sale posted 256-5.

A positive result in the second innings was never on as the home side reached 159-5, Sam Baker with a brace.

Back at Dane Road Sale 4th XI could only reach 170-6 in reply to Timperley's 199-7. Callum Ross taking 3-43 in the first innings and openers Zikria Nadeem (55) and Theo Brodbeck (51) top scoring for Sale.

Earlier in the week Sale 2nd XI lost their T20 cup quarter final at Didsbury. Sale did well to restrict the home side to 151-8 after they had made a blistering start, thanks in no small part to some excellent out cricket. Connor D'Ath (2) and Joe Molloy (1) pouched excellent catches in the deep. Ben Watkin was the main beneficiary with 3-28.

D'Ath then got Sale off to a flyer with 19 off 16 balls, but premier league leaders Didsbury were able to peg back the Sale response in the middle overs putting Sale too far behind the rate. Mike Bishop top scored with 36 as Sale closed on 116-6.

The over 40s fixture against Davenham was postponed due to the European semi-final.

On Saturday Sale 1st XI visit Bowdon and the 2nd XI host league leaders Oxton. On Sunday Sale 3rd XI host Stockport Georgians and the 4th XI visit Trafford MV.