

WCL – Saturday 28th August – Review of results

Most games were played at the start of the Bank Holiday weekend and there are still some intriguing fixtures left, not least for Pershore who are looking nervy in Div 3 of the Birmingham league and have some tough games left to secure their status.

Division One 1st XI had a familiar tale as Tim Williams won the toss at home to Redditch and then handed the ball to Andre Russell who quickly removed the Redditch top order. Redditch struggled to 104 all out and had little chance of preventing a home win and the maintenance of Green's 30 points lead at the top. Nomads thrashed pointless Colwall thanks to Ben Schiffmann's purple spell of 6-27 that sent the Herefordshire side down to bottom place with 3 games left.

Although Nomads have gone second and Astwood Bank (for whom Tom Pedley returned to form with an unbeaten century in a ten wickets win over Romsley) third, following Worcester's continued reversal of fortune against 5 wins out of the last 6 side, Stourbridge, it was bottom side Malvern's outstanding 80 runs win at Bewdley that looks like the bottom end of the table will be the most absorbing over the final three rounds of matches.

Despite 4 victories and 2 draws, including one of each in matches against Champions elect Barnards Green, Bewdley have slumped to 10th and with final matches against Redditch, Romsley and Stourbridge will desperately need to add to their present single point lead over Malvern in order to avoid the drop.

Droitwich beat Bromyard by 9 wickets with a good team performance and have gone to 5th place 13 points behind Worcester who now must play all three sides above them Nomads, Astwood Bank and Barnards Green and surely need maximums in all three if their faint title hopes are to be re-ignited this season.

In Division Two, Pedmore stuttered as they could only register 11 points from a draw in a severely rain affected match at Alvechurch. Oldswinford capitalised by beating Rushwick thanks to Sean Rebbetts' haul of 7-39 but that was after his own side scored just 110 all out. They are now 19 points behind Pedmore with three matches left, two of which are against the same opponents, Belbroughton who beat Hagley yesterday and Burghill, who thrashed Netherton, thanks again to Alex Hedges who scored 118 and set a new season's Divisional run record in the process.

In other matches, Monmouth were held to a losing draw and lost ground at Coombs Wood whilst Dominies crept a little closer to 3rd spot by beating Feckenham.

Division Three leaders Wormelow swept Avoncroft aside and still head Kidderminster by 15 points after the Carpet men had a similar result at home to

Stourport. If there is a third side promoted, Harborne, Cookley, Stourport, Enville, Chaddesley and Himbleton could all stake a late claim to being in Division two next season. Yesterday, Harborne beat nearly relegated Canon Frome, Cookley lost by 1 wicket to Enville, Chaddesley beat Hewell and Himbleton only got a losing draw against Birlingham.

Division Four North Champions Lye reversed their batting order and yet rattled up 378 in 41 overs including 113 from former captain Jon Stanaway, which was far too many for bottom placed side Belbroughton who totalled 113. Behind them, a real dogfight ensued on the final day for the play-off berth and as Amblecote drew with Stourbridge and Stourbridge Social lost to Alveley it was the Shropshire side that came up on the rails to clinch 2nd place thanks to Will Rodenhurst's 157. In the final match Himley secured 4th place by beating Barnt Green.

Division Four South leaders Harvington were confirmed as Champions by beating Martley and enter Division three next year after two successive promotions.–Old Vigornians place as runners up was already assured and they cemented it by beating Bromsgrove. Tenbury finished third despite a losing draw against Barnards Green for whom Dave White made 109 and Jon Lewis 107. In the other match played Hanley Castle beat Old Elizabethans to confirm the latter's bottom place finish.

The 2nd XIs Division One saw the three top sides, Astwood Bank who need one more win to take the title, Stourbridge and Nomads all take 20 points.

In Division two 2nds, again the top three all won so Bewdley's lead of 21 over Alvechurch and the latter's gap of 22 more than Monmouth makes the positions look unlikely to change. In other games, Stourport's Ian Osbourne and Feckenham's Jamie Reddish both scored centuries.

In Division three 2nds, also the top three won so Oldswinford who head Malvern by 8 and Romsley by a further 15 look to be contesting the major honours.

In the **Div 4 North 2nds**, Himley duly got the points they needed to win the division from Lye who were runners up.

In the **South**, Bromsgrove's draw with 3rd placed OVs meant that the door to the title was briefly opened for second placed Tenbury who were at 4th placed Barnards Green, however, Tenbury were well beaten and so the positions did not alter with Bromsgrove crowned Champions.

In the **one-team** section starting in **Division Five**, Old Hill beat West Malvern to finish as runners up and Vine also overtook the Malvern outfit when they beat Netherton.

Division Six Champions Astwood Bank will be joined as trophy winners by Nomads, victorious at Kempsey, and in the end were 22 points clear of Kidderminster 5ths who lost at Worcester. Highley missed the chance to deny Kidderminster 3rd by failing to get any points at Harborne.

In **Division Seven**, Enville kept their nerve beating Avoncroft to lead the Division still 12 clear of Coombs Wood who ended 21 points ahead of 3rd placed Oldswinford who pipped West Malvern.

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