



It promises to be another exciting season in Championships premier division in 2019. The league has been a real breeding ground for clubs which have gone on to greater things with previous champions Osterley CC, Crouch End CC, Harrow CC and Wycombe House CC all making the jump into Division 2 of the County League within the past 6 years. This year it will be exciting to see how the young chargers out east Stoke Newington CC fare in their first season of Division 1 cricket, while one of the former big boys of County League cricket South Hampstead CC will be desperate to return into Division 3 of the County League. League perennials Actonians CC, Alexandra Park CC and SKLPCC will also want to push hard. Ealing Hanwellians CC (formally known as Hanwell CC) have their first season in Division 1 after many years out and will be keen to stay up, while Kenton CC will also be looking to keep the heat on. The first two weeks have seen a few surprises as SKLPCC beat Actonians CC in the first week and Perivale Phoenixians beating SKLPCC in Week 2.



Actonians CC
Club Formed: 1922
Captain: Paul Maddock

Actonians will not have an Overseas Player for the first time in many years as VISA restrictions and the availability of a suitable candidate proved too much to overcome. They have also lost opening batsman and wicket keeper Jack Brown to Australia, as well as reliable opening bowler Aniket Palav to Croydon CC in Surrey. They have however picked up their leading wicket taker in the 2017 season Aman Dhaliwal who returns after a season playing for Crouch End CC. Actonians were beaten by 4 wickets in their first round match against SKLP however this is probably a small hiccup and no doubt they will be there or thereabouts come Week 18.

Predicted finish: Top 3



Alexandra Park CC
Club Formed: 1888
Captain: Andrew Jackett

Alexandra Park have a long history in the Middlesex Championship as one of the founding members. They are a proud club and even hosted Donald Bradman during a Ashes Tour, they will be certainly trying to improve on their disappointing 8th place finish in 2018. Andrew Jackett will lead the troops as the welcome back Ewan Whorton from a sabbatical while Lewis Ward joins from Tadcaster Magnet CC in Yorkshire. Look for the all-rounder's Jackett and Josh Taylor to lead the batting and bowling stats come season end

Predicted finish: Lower half finish 6-8



Ealing Hanwellians CC
Club Formed: 2013
Captain: Sarupinder Singh

Manish Ladwa will lead the bowling attack and after taking 3 five wicket bags during their promotion year he will no doubt feel confident he can repeat his feats. Khurram Gouhar, and Naresh Sharma will again feature in the batting statistics while they will again be led by the experienced Sarupinder Singh. Ealing Hanwellians will probably have a tough time starting off relegation back to Division 2, however if they can sneak a result here and there anything is possible!

Predicted finish: Fighting relegation 9-10



Headstone Manor CC
Club Formed: 1979
Captain: Dilan Assani

After getting a last minute reprieve when Ealing Trailfinders CC were relegated after not meeting the pre requisites of playing Division 1 cricket, Headstone Manor will be looking at working hard to avoid the drop for real in 2019. Last year's star player Suyash Dessai is back after an incredible season in 2019 where he scored 3 centuries. The club has rebranded itself after 39 seasons, previously playing as Lohana CC, hoping that they will reach out to the wider community.

Predicted finish: Fighting relegation 9-10



Kenton CC
Club Formed: 1921
Captain: Kalpesh Kerai

After being relegated from the MCCL in 2016, Kenton have struggled to make any real title challenge, they have however kept the majority of their squad together and will look to their captain and all rounder Kalpesh Kerai to lead the show. In 2018 they struggled for a big wicket taker however Chetan Mukesh will again prove a handful. Look for the runs to come from Ashish Karia, Schopun Jooma and the experienced Jonny Mills

Predicted finish: Top 3



Perivale Phoenixians CC
Club Formed: 2003
Captain: Arshad Khan

PPCC on their day can be a difficult side to play against. They will be led again by club campaigner Arshad Khan and will look to Khans brother in law Riz Khan to lead the batting stocks. After being promoted into Division 1 for 2013, they have failed to make any real impact with the best finish being 6th in 2014. Khan will be desperate for his team to fire themselves into a top 5 finish in 2019.

Predicted finish: Lower half finish 6-8



South Hampstead CC
Club Formed: 1875
Captain: Nish Patel

South Hampstead will be looking to bounce back into Div 3 at the first time of trying. They will be captaining by the hard hitting Nish Patel who had an impressive return of 523 1st XI league runs in 2018 while James Williams should also contribute plenty with the bat. South Hampstead lacked a bowler in 2018 who took big swags of wickets however will be hopeful that the likes of Varun Agnish and Williams can shine with the ball. They are however without 3 of their 1st XI who have joined MCCL clubs in the way of Harrow, Hampstead and Brondesbury, saying that expect SHCC to have enough depth across their club to be there or thereabouts come Week 18.

Predicted finish: Top 3



SKLPCC
Club formed: 1985
Captain: Nayur Arjan

SKLPCC will be looking to make big strides in 2019 and push for that elusive promotion. They had an excellent win against last years 2nd placed side Actonians and will be hoping that spurs them into a

big 2019. Expect the runs to come from Jharish Kerai and Roheet Pindoria, while wickets should come in the ways of Rikesh Vikaria and Arvind Patel. Anyone who has been to India Gardens will know how much of a tough place it is to play, and no doubt that will again prove an advantage to SKLP.

Predicted finish: Top Half finish 4-5



Stoke Newington CC
Club Formed: 1999
Captain: Scott Doody

One of the two East London clubs in Division 1, sharing the famous Hackney Marshes with Tower Hamlets CC. Stoke Newington have their Captain back after a season in Warwickshire leagues while last years Overseas player, Jamacian Hodayne Bryce is back for another season. Stoke Newington have an excellent Colts section and a number of their squad have come up through these ranks. Expect a big season from these chaps, however promotion maybe a little bit out of their range in 2019.

Predicted finish: Top Half finish 4-5



Tower Hamlets CC
Club Formed: 2009
Captain: Shakeel Ahmed

Tower Hamlets CC will be looking to solidify their position in Division 1 with another solid season. The side made up of mainly players of Bangladeshi heritage, will be led by the experienced campaigner Shakeel Ahmed who topped their batting statistics in the 2018 season. With all their players fasting for the holy month of Ramadan they may struggle during the first four weeks, but look to them to finish at least in mid table by the end of the season.

Predicted finish: Lower half finish 6-8

Compiled by Matt Robinson