

ECCBA League Fixture 5

Cambridgeshire v Hertfordshire

Littleport Leisure Centre Centre – Sunday 18th March 2018

Our fifth and final ECCBA league fixture of the season was an away fixture, at Littleport Leisure Centre, against Cambridgeshire. We came into the game trailing Suffolk by six points and as many points as possible would be needed to put the pressure on the league leaders. The team chosen to represent us was as follows;

H1	H2	H3
1. Mary Grethe 2. Paul Harris 3. Jack Smalley 4. Jason Ellis	1. Thomas Ellis 2. Andy Cobbold 3. Sandra Gammage 4. David Danby	1. Harry Wilson 2. Jacqui Harris 3. Roy Grethe 4. Pete Cook
H4	H5	H6
1. Marilyn Cook 2. Kate Summerfield 3. Ben Summerfield 4. Neil Tuckey	1. Dave Smith 2. Ron Hart 3. Mary Cobbold 4. Margaret Forrest	1. Stuart Palmer 2. Mick Cook 3. Rebecca Hearn 4. Craig Hearn

During the day the odd numbered teams would play at the same time and the even numbered teams would play at the same time.

Session 1

It would be the odd numbered teams to play first. Getting used to the carpets would be essential in order to try and build some early momentum. H3 got off to a poor start and found themselves 7-0 behind. They got themselves to within three playing the final end but could only take two shots and lost the game 8-7. H5 were keeping with their opponents but could never quite do enough to get in front and lost the game 7-3. There was better news where H1 were concerned who managed to secure an important 8-5 win.

Session Score
Cambs 4-2 Herts

Match Score
Cambs 4-2 Herts

Session 2

It was not the even numbered teams to take to the mats. H4 pretty much followed the template set by H3. They started poorly and fell behind early on. They got closer to their opponents but could not pull back the early deficit and the match was lost 10-6. H2 put in the performance of the day so far as they led from start to finish and competed a one sided 13-1 win. H6 were also playing well and despite being close in the early ends they pulled away from their opponents and secured a good 12-6 win.

Session Score
Cambs 2-4 Herts

Match Score
Cambs 6-6 Herts

Session 3

H3 looked in trouble again in their second game but four shots on one end got them right back into the match. They trailed 6-7 playing the final end but their skip managed to turn a brown in for shot with his final wood to secure a 7-7 draw. H1 following on from their win in the first session played some consistent woods again as they earned a 10-5 win. H5 ensured it was a good session for us with the narrowest of wins 7-6.

Leading 11-7 at the halfway stage, and news coming through that Suffolk were well ahead in their game, ensuring 2nd place was the first objective. Three more points were required to achieve that.

Session Score
Cambs 1-5 Herts

Match Score
Cambs 7-11 Herts

Session 4

H4 responded well from their opening game defeat by playing some consistent bowls and just doing enough to hold their opponents off and secure a 10-5 win. H6 always looked fairly comfortable in their match despite not fully getting away from their opponents doing enough to take the game 9-4. H2 looked like making it a perfect session as they were tied at 6-6 playing the last end but held match lie. Unfortunately the opposition skip played a good wood to take shot and with it the match 7-6.

With the runners up spot now secured the next target would be to try and win the game.

Session Score
Cambs 2-4 Herts

Match Score
Cambs 9-15 Herts

Session 5

H1 looking to secure their 3rd straight win of the day were playing well again. The game was close in the early-middle ends but they pulled away towards the end to take a 10-4 win. H5 were involved in another tight game. Leading 6-3 playing the final end they did just enough to defend that lead dropping two shots on the final end but taking the game 6-5. Finally H3 were looking good in their game with a 9-6 lead on the final end. However, the opposition skip trailed the jack back with his last wood to hold 5. All was not lost though as the H3 skip had last wood and played a good draw to cut the count down to one and take the game 9-7.

With a 21-9 lead the match was now won. Suffolk led 20-4 at this stage. We would need to win the last three games and hope that Norfolk could do us a huge favour by winning the last six games.

Session Score
Cambs 0-6 Herts

Match Score
Cambs 9-21 Herts

Session 6

H6, having won their first two games, saved their best performance till last. They got in front early and extended their lead throughout the game to take a good 15-4 win. H4 were involved in a tight game but some good middle ends earned them a 9-6 lead. They scored a single on the final end to take a 10-6 win. H2 started well in their game but fell behind. Playing the last end they were three behind. They played a good last end and got themselves into a position where they could maybe rescue something from the game. However, the opposition skip played a good first wood to cut the count down to one and that is how it stayed and the game was lost 8-6.

Session Score Cambs 2-4 Herts

Match Result Cambs 11-25 Herts

A fantastic win to finish a great season off. From a tied game at 6-6 we won 19-5 in the final four sessions. It was ultimately not enough as Suffolk had won 30-6 at Norfolk. However, we had finished runners up for only the second time. It is the first time we have won four games in a season. It was the first time we had won all of our away games. It was a new record points total for us (112) eclipsing our previous best by five points. Well done to the whole squad on those achievements and congratulations to Suffolk on retaining their title.

The individual team performances are displayed below

Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	SF	SA	Points
H1	3	3	0	0	28	14	6
H2	3	1	0	2	25	16	2
H3	3	1	1	1	23	22	3
H4	3	2	0	1	26	21	4
H5	3	2	0	1	16	18	4
H6	3	3	0	0	36	14	6
Total	18	12	0	6	154	105	25

The final league table is shown below.

League Table

		Pld	W	D	L	SF	SA	Pts
1	Suffolk	5	5	0	0	819	547	123
2	Hertfordshire	5	4	0	1	723	647	112
3	Essex	5	2	0	3	683	662	92
4	Cambridgeshire	5	2	0	3	657	702	88
5	Norfolk	5	1	0	4	628	733	69
6	Bedfordshire	5	1	0	4	595	815	56