

## ECCBA Champion of Champions

### Hingham Sports Centre – Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2014 (Hosted by Norfolk)

This event sees the winners of the county titles from each county play against each other to become Eastern Counties Champion of Champions.

#### Session 1

The Hertfordshire triples & fours were up against Cambridgeshire first. Both matches were very close the whole way through and come down to the last woods on the last end. In a low scoring game the triples were 4-4 going in to the final end. They managed to secure 3 shots on the final end to get off to a good start with a 7-4 win. The fours trailed by two going into the final end but two excellent bowls by Margaret (Skip) left them holding match lie. However, the Cambs. skip was able to take shot with his last bowl and with it the match 11-8.

#### Session 2

The singles and the pairs were up next, Suffolk were there first opponents. The pairs never got going and dropped three consecutive two's to fall behind early on. They never got in to the match and were out bowled by their opponents on almost every end. The final score was a heavy 16-2 defeat. There was better news for Craig in the singles, he controlled his game from start to finish and come away with an excellent 15-4 victory.

#### Session 3

Next up for the 4's and triples was Essex. The triples got off to a bad start and found themselves 8-2 behind, they however never gave up the fight and managed to fight back to secure an 8-8 draw and keep themselves right in the competition. The fours never really got in to the match against Essex and were always chasing the game. They ended up going down to a 12-3 defeat. After two sessions the triples had a win and a draw, the 4's had some work to do as they had lost both games.

#### Session 4

Norfolk was the next opposition for the singles and pairs. Craig continued his good form from the first match and although the score of 10-4 was not as convincing as his first win the performance probably was. The pairs recovered well after their heavy defeat in the first session. They controlled the match and deserved their 13-2 victory. After two games Craig had two wins, Marilyn & Pete in the pairs had a win and a loss from their first two matches.

#### Session 5

Matches against Suffolk were next up for the triples and 4's. Never team never really got themselves in with a chance of winning the game. An 11-3 defeat for the triples realistically meant the end of their chances of winning the title. The fours ended up going down to a 9-4 defeat against an experienced Suffolk team. They would be looking for victories in their last two games to restore some confidence before the nationals. The triples had a win, draw and a defeat now and would be looking to win their last two games to move up the standings.

## **Session 6**

Bedfordshire were the next opponents for the singles and pairs. The Beds singles bowler had also won both his first two games and the winner of this match would put themselves in a great position to take the title. Craig started well and managed to build an 8-3 lead after 5 ends. However, a couple of good conversion shots by the Beds bowler reduced the deficit to 8-9 going in to the last end. Unfortunately Craig dropped two on the last end to lose the match 10-9. The pairs had a topsy turvy game against their Bedfordshire opponents, never team could fully take control of the match till Beds picked up 4 shots on the 7<sup>th</sup> end to put them 10-6 up with two ends to play. A single on the 8<sup>th</sup> end kept Herts hopes alive, chasing shots on the last end they dropped three and ended up losing 13-7 and with it any chance of winning the title. After three matches Craig had 4 points from 6. Marilyn & Pete only had 2 points from 6.

## **Session 7**

Norfolk was the next opponents for the fours and triples. The fours were involved in a close match and got themselves in with a chance of claiming their first victory of the day. Unfortunately, they couldn't get themselves over the line and lost 10-7. The triples never got going in their match and picked up their only shot late in the game. They eventually ended up losing the match 11-1.

## **Session 8**

Cambridgeshire next up for singles and pairs. Craig needed a victory to keep the pressure on Bedfordshire but was always behind and slightly chasing the game, he never quite did enough to catch up and ended up losing the match 8-6. For the second time in the day the pairs were well beaten. They did not perform anywhere near their best and were well out bowled by the defending champions as they went down to a 12-4 defeat.

## **Session 9**

Last up for the 4's and triples was Bedfordshire. To be honest both teams were now looking like they wished the day was over, the triples were well beaten 11-3, the fours with their last chance of claiming a victory never looked like doing so and went down to a 17-6 defeat.

## **Session 10**

Essex was the final opponents for the singles and pairs. With the singles already having won by the Beds bowler Craig was just trying to win to move up the standings, he managed to do so as he completed a 10-4 victory. The pairs could still be won by any of 4 teams. Essex were one of those teams so Marilyn & Pete knew they had to perform to a good standard to ensure the integrity of the competition. It was easily their best performance of the day as they raced into a 13-0 lead after 7 ends, they relaxed a little over the last two ends with the win assured and ended with a 13-4 victory.

The teams performed as below;

<b>Singles: Craig Hearn</b>	<b>Pts 6 SF 50 SA 30 3<sup>rd</sup> Place</b>
<b>Pairs: Marilyn &amp; Pete Cook</b>	<b>Pts 4 SF 39 SA 47 5<sup>th</sup> Place</b>
<b>Triples: Mick Cook, Andy Cobbold &amp; Rebecca Hearn</b>	<b>Pts 3 SF 22 SA 45 6<sup>th</sup> Place</b>
<b>Fours: Jacqui &amp; Paul Harris, Jim &amp; Margaret Forrest</b>	<b>Pts 0 SF 28 SA 59 6<sup>th</sup> Place</b>
<b>Team</b>	<b>Pts 13 SF139 SA181 6<sup>th</sup> Place</b>

The singles was won by Neil Tuckey of Bedfordshire

The pairs was won by Simon Missing & Jamie Smith of Cambridgeshire

The triples was won by Ivan Perry, Colin Dalton & David Folkes of Cambridgeshire

The fours was won by Beryl & Colin Wicks & Barry & Maureen Giddens of Cambridgeshire

The Team event was won by Cambridgeshire

Despite 3 of our 4 teams finishing in the bottom two position all teams should be going in to the Nationals in June in an optimistic from of mind. Craig finished 3<sup>rd</sup>, the two games he lost were both by a narrow margin. He was unfortunate not to defeat the Bedfordshire winner. The pair's competition was very open, with all teams beating others. Marilyn & Pete performed well below their best and will expect to be more competitive at Durham. The triples actually beat the eventual winners in the first game of the day but seemed to lose confidence for some reason. They are capable of a much higher finish at Durham. Although the 4's lost all their matches they held match lie against the eventual winners in their first match and their day could have been so much different if they had managed to win that game. I expect a much higher finish from them in the nationals in June.