

ECCBA League Fixture 5

Hertfordshire v Norfolk

Applecroft School – Sunday 19th March 2017

Our fifth and final ECCBA league fixture of the season was a home fixture against Norfolk. A good performance and win was required to keep alive our hopes of runners up spot in the league. The team chose to represent Hertfordshire was as follows;

H1

1. Mary Cobbold
2. Mick Cook
3. Jack Smalley
4. Jason Ellis

H2

1. Jacqui Harris
2. Martin Simson
3. Marilyn Cook
4. Pete Cook

H3

1. Audrey Joy
2. Gill Barraclough
3. Dave Smith
4. Margaret Forrest

H4

1. Shirley Davidson
2. Doug Parfett
3. Paul Harris
4. Craig Hearn

H5

1. Eric Shepherd
2. Stuart Palmer
3. Ron Hart
4. Rebecca Hearn

H6

1. Thomas Ellis
2. Ollie Mercer-Smith
3. Andy Cobbold
4. David Danby

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 looked like being the perfect start with H1 & H3 having already secured wins 11-8 and 8-2 respectively it looked like H5 were going to make it a full house as they led by three and held four or five shots on the last end. However, with the last bowl of the game the Norfolk skip managed to knock the jack to the back of the carpet to pick up three shots and secure an unlikely draw. Still a great start for us with five points secured.

Session Score
Herts 5-1 Norfolk

Match Score
Herts 5-1 Norfolk

Session 2

H6 started very strongly and continued that form throughout the game as they eased away to an impressive 16-3 win. Despite winning the first couple of ends H4 were unable to maintain that form and were beaten 8-3. H6 had held a 5-1 lead at one stage but trailed 6-5 playing the final end. However, they did just enough to take two shots on the final end and secure an important 7-6 win.

Session Score
Herts 4-2 Norfolk

Match Score
Herts 9-3 Norfolk

Session 3

H5 won their first end but that was where the good news ended. Their opponents scored heavily including a seven on one end to secure a huge 24-2 win. H1 and H3 were both involved in tight games but could not get the better of their opponents in the later ends and both went down to narrow loses 9-7 (H1) and 6-4 (H3). A terrible session for us as Norfolk levelled the game at 9-9.

Session Score
Herts 0-6 Norfolk

Match Score
Herts 9-9 Norfolk

Session 4

H2 were involved in a tight encounter with their opposition. The Norfolk skip attempting to secure the two shots they needed for a draw knocked the jack off on the last end and with it a 9-5 win was secured for H2. That is where the good news ended as H6 were unable to repeat their win from the first session and were beaten 12-8. H4 also went down to a loss as they were defeated 11-5. We now trailed 13-11 in the match and would likely need maximum points from the final two sessions to finish runners up in the league.

Session Score
Herts 2-4 Norfolk

Match Score
Herts 11-13 Norfolk

Session 5

The session started in promising fashion as H5 built a strong lead and H1 and H3 were will in their games. H5 played their best bowls of the day and showed good character after their heavy loss in the previous game to record an impressive 22-0 win. Once again it would be just the one win in the session as the other two teams lost tight matches, H1 11-9 and H3 9-7. Second place was now out of our reach but the match could still be won with a good final session.

Session Score
Herts 2-4 Norfolk

Match Score
Herts 13-17 Norfolk

Session 6

H2 looking for their third straight win, struggled early on and never really recovered. Whilst not dropping big counts their opponents continued to add to the score throughout the game and eased away to an 11-2 win. H6 were involved in a very tight match but come out on the wrong side of a 6-5 loss. H4 took a three shot advantage into their final end but with his last wood the Norfolk skip removed the holding shot to hold match lie. The Herts skip with the last bowl of the match played a composed draw to take shot and with it the match 9-5.

Session Score
Herts 2-4 Norfolk

Match Result
Herts 15-21 Norfolk

A disappointing 21-15 loss in our final match of the season. Having built a 9-3 lead we looked in a good position to push on to try and finish second in the league. In the end that was irrelevant as Cambridgeshire hammered Essex and we would have needed 26 points which never looked likely against a strong and experienced Norfolk team.

The individual team performances are displayed below

Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	SF	SA	Points
H1	3	1	0	2	27	28	2
H2	3	2	0	1	18	22	4
H3	3	1	0	2	19	17	2
H4	3	1	0	2	17	24	2
H5	3	1	1	1	31	31	3
H6	3	1	0	2	29	21	2
Total	18	7	1	10	141	143	15

The final league table is shown below. Congratulations to Suffolk who won the title for the 7th year in a row with a record number of points.

	Pl	W	D	L	For	Agst	Pts
1 Suffolk	5	5	0	0	930	526	139
2 Cambridgeshire	5	3	0	2	685	680	100
3 Hertfordshire	5	2	0	3	695	740	89
4 Essex	5	3	0	2	734	706	81
5 Norfolk	5	2	0	3	632	759	76
6 Bedfordshire	5	0	0	5	588	853	55