

Hertfordshire v Bedfordshire – ECCBA League Fixture 5

Shenley Village Hall – Sunday 20th March 2016

Hertfordshire faced an improving Bedfordshire in their final fixture of the ECCBA league season knowing a convincing win could be enough to seal a 2nd successive runners up spot. The team chosen to represent Hertfordshire was as follows;

H1	H2	H3
1. Ron Hart 2. Ben Summerfield 3. Rebecca Hearn 4. Rob Washbrook	1. Thomas Ellis 2. Andy Cobbold 3. Sandra Gammage 4. David Danby	1. Dave Smith 2. Roy Harden 3. Jonathan Carter 4. Pete Cook
H4	H5	H6
1. Mary Cobbold 2. Ian Carter 3. Marilyn Cook 4. Jason Ellis	1. Paul Harris 2. Mick Cook 3. Jack Smalley 4. Craig Hearn	1. Audrey Joy 2. Gill Baraclough 3. Jackie Harden 4. Margaret Forrest

Session 1

It was the odd numbered teams who would play first. H1 made a fantastic start to their match picking up six shots on the first end. They controlled the match from there after and secured a comfortable 13-5 win. H5 also made a strong start to their match and continued to play well throughout and secured an impressive 15-3 win. H3 were unable to make it the perfect start, they made a slow start and were behind the whole match. Trailing 6-4 playing the last end they held the three shots needed to take the win but the Beds skip drew in for shot with his last wood to take a 7-4 win. A solid start that would need to be built on if we were to take 2nd place.

Session Result	Herts. 4-2 Beds	Match Score	Herts. 4-2 Beds
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Session 2

H2 started their game strongly and also looked like taking the win, which they did comfortably 14-4. H4 also won their match by the same scoreline, helped by a seven shot count on a single end. Similar to the first session H6 were unable to secure a clean sweep of wins, despite not playing too badly their opponents had the upper hand and the final score was a 9-5 loss. Another 4-2 session win meant we led the overall match 8-4 at this early stage.

Session Result	Herts. 4-2 Beds	Match Score	Herts. 8-4 Beds
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Session 3

H3 after suffering a defeat in their first match responded well, a good team performance and a 14-2 win was secured. In the other two games Bedfordshire showed why they have had improved results this year, two commanding performances as H5 were beaten 13-2 and H1 were also well beaten 12-2. The 4-2 session lost meant Bedfordshire had closed the gap to 10-8 at the halfway stage. An improvement would be needed in the 2nd half of the match would be needed to win the game and keep alive any hopes of finishing in 2nd place.

Session Result	Herts. 2-4 Beds	Match Score	Herts. 10-8 Beds
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Session 4

H6 looking for a response after their defeat in the first game were unable to come up with one as they were well beaten 15-2. The other two games could now be pivotal, with the match level at 10-10 both games were coming down to the final ends. H4 took a three shot lead into the final end but looked in trouble till our skip took the jack off and secured a narrow 9-8 win. H2 were also involved in a tight game, but managed to do enough to get over the line and take a 8-5 win. A 4-2 session win secured and with it a 14-10 match lead. With news coming through that Cambs were leading Norfolk 16-8, we had work to do to get in to 2nd place. We had to outscore Cambs who were level on points with us at the start of the day but had superior shots. Essex were being well beaten at Suffolk so it was a now a straight fight between Cambs and ourselves.

Session Result	Herts. 4-2 Beds	Match Score	Herts. 14-10 Beds
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Session 5

In what looked like being the most important session of the day ended up being our best. Three convincing wins as H4 won 9-4, H1 dropped just a single shot as they won 12-1 and H3 sealed the third win with a 10-3 victory. A much needed 6-0 session win and the match was now won as we led 20-10. Could we now increase the winning margin and do enough to finish second?

Session Result	Herts. 6-0 Beds	Match Score	Herts. 20-10 Beds
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Session 6

H4 having won their first two games always looked like making it a third straight win as they led from start to finish and secured a 12-2 win. H2 aided by picking up five shots on the 6th end looked in control, but needed to remove the jack on the final end to secure a narrow 12-11 win and also take their third win of the day. It was felt around the hall that H6 might need to also secure a win if we were to finish 2nd, they lead throughout the match until conceding two shots on the 8th end to fall 8-7 behind. Despite their best efforts they were unable to win the last end and lost the game 9-7.

Session Result	Herts. 4-2 Beds	Match Score	Herts. 24-12 Beds
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The final score was a 24-12 win. A very pleasing result considering the score was 10-8 at the midpoint in the game and they Bedfordshire have had an improved season, with only Suffolk bettering this result against them (26-10). Unfortunately, the 24 points was not enough to earn second place as Cambridgeshire had secured an impressive 25-11 win at Home to Norfolk meaning we agonisingly feel just a single point short. Leading 18-12 against Cambs earlier in the season only to lose all three of the final matches ultimately cost us. However, we should not feel too disappointed. It was another consistent season and was important to show that last season was not a fluke. We now move on to the Six Counties competition at Braintree in April and should firmly believe that we have the potential to win the competition having proved over the last two seasons that we are now one of the better counties.

Match Result Hertfordshire 24 (164) – 12 (117) Bedfordshire

The final league table is shown below

	Pl	W	D	L	For	Agst	Pts
1 Suffolk	5	5	0	0	831	530	129
2 Cambridgeshire	5	3	1	1	712	643	93
3 Hertfordshire	5	2	1	2	681	731	92
4 Norfolk	5	3	0	2	686	726	81
5 Essex	5	1	0	4	632	757	75
6 Bedfordshire	5	0	0	5	640	795	70

The performances of the teams on the day are detailed below;

	W	D	L	SF	SA	Pts
H1	2	0	1	27	18	4
H2	3	0	0	34	20	6
H3	2	0	1	28	12	4
H4	3	0	0	35	14	6
H5	2	0	1	26	20	4
H6	0	0	3	14	33	0
Total	12	0	6	164	117	24