

National Championships (Friday 11th November – Monday 14th November 2016)

Potters Leisure Resort

The team chose to represent Hertfordshire was as follows;

A	B	C
1. Dave Smith	1. Thomas Ellis	1. Jacqui Harris
2. Mike Bennett	2. Andy Cobbold	2. Mick Cook
3. Marilyn Cook	3. Sandra Gammage	3. Craig Hearn
4. Pete Cook	4. David Danby	4. Jack Smalley
D	E	F
1. Alan Bull	1. Mary Cobbold	1. Kate Claridge
2. Audrey Joy	2. Vince Tamorro	2. Ben Summerfield
3. Gill Barraclough	3. Paul Harris	3. Rebecca Hearn
4. Margaret Forrest	4. Jason Ellis	4. Rob Washbrook

During the weekend A,B & C would play at the same time and D,E & F would do likewise.

Saturday

Session 1

Teams A-C were looking to get us off to a strong start with three games against Northumberland. Team C got off to a great start and controlled their match throughout coming away with a strong 18-4 win. Team started slowly and trailed 7-2. They got the match back to 9-7 playing the last end but could only take a single and lost 9-8. Team B were involved in a tight low scoring game but were unfortunately narrowly beaten 7-5.

Session 2

Teams E-F began their weekend with matches against Cambridgeshire. All three games were close and looked like they would be decided on the last end. Unfortunately it was the worst possible outcome as all three teams lost D (7-9), E (4-9) and F (7-8).

Session 3

Another Northern county up next for A-C as they face off against Sunderland. Team A looking to respond to their opening defeat were unable to do so as they played poorly and lost 12-7. Team B also struggled in their game and it was a second straight defeat as they lost 11-3. Team C followed up their opening win with another as they won a tight game 7-4. Team C were the only team to have picked up any points so far.

Session 4

Due to there being an odd number of counties each team had to take turns in sitting out a session, this session was our turn to sit out and not play.

Session 5

A-C were back in action with three matches against Bedfordshire. Teams A & B would be looking for their first point of the weekend and team C would be looking for their third straight win. Team A played better but were never quite able to pull away from their opponents, they took a 6-4 lead into the final end and were able to defend it to win 6-5. Team B also had a close match but were also able to secure their first points with a 10-7 win. Team C were unable to make it a perfect session but they remained unbeaten securing an 8-8 draw.

Session 6

D-F played their second match of the weekend against Durham all looking for their first points. All three games were close throughout but it was the Durham teams who come out on top in each one. D were beaten 8-6, E lost their game 10-8 and F were beaten 9-4.

Session 7

Essex were next up for teams A-C. Team C lost their unbeaten record as they were well beaten 14-4. Team A played poorly and were also well beaten 11-3. Team B avoided the 6-0 session loss as they won their second straight game 10-9.

Session 8

D-F playing their third and final game of the day would have to play well to get anything off the three time defending champions Suffolk. It was to be a third straight defeat for both teams D & F who lost narrowly 3-7 and 4-7 respectively. Team E finished the day on a high with a good 8-7 win.

Session 9

The final session of the day, A-C playing their 5th game of the day against Norfolk. Team A looked to be in control of their game but their opponents closed their lead to 5-4 playing the last end, a poor last end saw team A drop two shots and lose the match 6-5. Back to back defeats for team C too as they lost a close game 6-4. Was better news for team B who won their third straight game 10-8

A terribly disappointing day saw us pick up just 15 points. We would have to make a vast improvement on the 2nd day to avoid finishing in the bottom places. Suffolk were the overnight leaders from Sunderland & Essex who had both had very good days.

Standings at the end of day 1.

	PI Pts
Suffolk	24 39
Sunderland	24 33
Essex	24 29
Norfolk	24 25
Durham	24 24
Cambridgeshire	24 23
Hertfordshire	24 15
Bedfordshire	24 15
Northumberland	24 13

Sunday

Session 10

Teams D-F would get the day off and running with three matches against Northumberland. With both teams D & F looking for their first win. Team F played better than they had on the first day and cruised to a 15-7 win. Team looked like they would follow suit as they built a healthy lead but their opponents hit back to claim an 8-8 draw. Team D always trailed in their match and they ran out of ends to mount a comeback as they lost 10-7.

Session 11

A-C would start their day with three games against Cambridgeshire. Team C after starting so well on Saturday lost their third straight game as they went down 14-5. Team A picked up just their second win with a good 10-7 win. Team B won their fourth straight match with a comfortable 10-3 victory.

Session 12

Sunderland were the next opponents for D-F. Team F followed up their win in the first session of the day with another 7-5. That's where the good news ended as D lost narrowly 8-7 and E were well beaten 11-2.

Session 13

A sit out session for us this time.

Session 14

D-F next faced Bedfordshire. D looked like picking up their first win of the weekend as they surged into a 10-2 lead. However, 10 dropped shots over the last three ends saw the game lost 12-10. The other two games were very close with E edging out their opponents 9-8 and F securing a 9-9 draw.

Session 15

A-C were back in action with their penultimate match against Durham. Our best session of the weekend saw us win a session 6-0 for the first time. Team A controlled their match, although it was very low scoring to win 8-1. Team B come through in a tight match 8-6. Team C also won a close game for a 10-8 win.

Session 16

D-F would play Essex in this session. This would be a tough match as Essex were having a great weekend and still had an outside chance of the winning the event. Team D won their match 9-6 for their first win of the weekend. Team E were unable to get the better of their opposition as they lost 8-6. Team F trailing by two on the final end managed to pick up three shots and take a 10-9 win.

Session 17

Last game of the weekend for A-C and they would finish up against Suffolk who were looking to secure the title. Three close games, although the scores did not necessarily reflect it. Team A trailed 9-7 going into the final end, chasing a couple of shots to get a draw dropped three to lose 12-7. Team C were close up to the later ends with their opponents but fell away to a 10-3 defeat. Team B continued their strong from with a good 11-6 win.

Session 18

The final session of the weekend and D-F had three games against Norfolk. Team F were never in their match and were well beaten 18-2. Team D finished off with a good win 8-6 and team E also finished their weekend with a good win 9-4.

The final table is shown below. A disappointing 7th place, finishing on the same number of points as last year. All the damage was done on the Saturday, we recovered on the Sunday (scoring the 4th highest amount of points) but it will still a disappointing weekend. Congratulations to Suffolk who won the event for the fourth year in a row.

	Sat	Sun	Total
Suffolk	39	33	72
Sunderland	33	30	63
Essex	29	31	60
Norfolk	25	24	49
Durham	24	21	45
Cambridgeshire	23	20	43
Hertfordshire	15	28	43
Northumberland	13	16	29
Bedfordshire	15	13	28

The performances of each Hertfordshire team are detailed below.

Team	Beds	Cambs	Durham	Essex	Norfolk	N'Land	Suffolk	S'Land	PI	Pts	SF	SA
A	6-5	10-7	8-1	3-11	5-6	8-9	7-12	5-11	8	6	52	62
B	10-7	10-3	8-6	10-9	10-8	5-7	11-6	3-11	8	12	67	57
C	8-8	5-14	10-8	4-14	4-6	18-4	3-10	7-4	8	7	59	68
D	10-12	7-9	6-8	9-6	8-6	4-10	3-7	7-8	8	4	54	66
E	9-8	4-9	8-10	6-8	9-4	8-8	8-7	2-11	8	7	54	65
F	9-9	7-8	4-9	10-9	2-18	15-7	4-7	7-5	8	7	58	72
Pts	8-4	4-8	6-6	6-6	6-6	5-7	4-8	4-8				

Special mention to team B who lost their first two games to then win six matches in a row.