

National Championships (Friday 10th November – Monday 13th November 2017)

Potters Leisure Resort

The team chose to represent Hertfordshire was as follows;

A	B	C
1. Audrey Joy	1. Harry Wilson	1. Marilyn Cook
2. Gill Barraclough	2. Andy Cobbold	2. Kate Summerfield
3. Dave Smith	3. Rebecca Hearn	3. Ben Summerfield
4. Margaret Forrest	4. Craig Hearn	4. Pete Cook

D	E	F
1. Stuart Palmer	1. Thomas Ellis	1. Jacqui Harris
2. Mick Cook	2. Ollie Mercer-Smith	2. Andrea McKechnie
3. Jack Smalley	3. Sandra Gammage	3. Paul Harris
4. Jason Ellis	4. David Danby	4. Neil Tuckey

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 Bedfordshire. Team A got off to a strong start and always looked in control and eased away to an impressive 13-5 win. Team C got off to a very sluggish start and their opponents whilst not scoring lots of shots largely controlled them game and it resulted in a 9-1 loss. Team B also looked in trouble in their match. Going into the final end they trailed 7-5. However, a good last end and they managed to secure three shots to take an unlikely 8-7 win.

Session 2

No matches for us in this session as Teams E-F sat this one out.

Session 3

Norfolk were the next opponents for teams A-C. Following on from their good win in the first session team A played well again and secured another impressive win 11-4. Team B were outplayed in their match and six shots on the final end only brought a bit of respectability to the score as they lost 11-9. Team C were struggling again in their match and trailed 7-2. However, some impressive middle to late ends saw them take an 8-7 lead into the final end which they were able to defend and take the match 10-7.

Session 4

Durham were the first opponents of the weekend for D-F. Team D got off to a flier and played good consistent bowls throughout the game and won 15-1. Team E also played a good solid match and always looked reasonably in control of their game and secured an 11-6 win. The match for team F was a lot closer but they were able to secure a perfect session for us with a hard earned 7-6 win.

Session 5

Essex were the next opposition for A-C. Team A were unable to maintain their winning start as they lost their match 12-7. Team C were always reasonably in control of their game and despite dropping a few shots on their final end secured a 9-7 win. Team B responded to their defeat in the previous session with an impressive 13-2 win. All three teams had two wins and one defeat from their first three matches.

Session 6

D-F played their second match of the weekend against Sunderland all looking for their second straight wins. In what turned out to be a disappointing session it was only team E who secured any points with a 5-5 draw. Team D were well beaten 11-3 and team F fell to a 9-5 loss.

Session 7

Defending champions Suffolk were next up for teams A-C. All three games were very close and looked like they could go either way. Unfortunately only the one game went in our favour with B securing a 6-5 win. Team A suffered a 7-4 loss and team C lost 8-7.

Session 8

D-F playing their third and final game of the day would be up against Cambridgeshire. Team D played some consistent bowls and secured a good 11-6 win. They had two wins a defeat from their three matches. Team F also had two wins from their first three matches as they took an impressive 11-2 win. Team E were unable to maintain their unbeaten start as they lost 9-5 and had a win, a loss and draw from their three matches.

Session 9

The final session of the day, A-C playing their 5th game of the day against Northumberland. Team A were looking to get back to winning ways after losing their last two matches. They did just that securing a good 11-5 win. They had three wins and two defeats from the day. Team C had the same record after recording a heavy 16-4 win. Team B finished off a good day with a 12-6 win and had four wins from their five matches.

A fantastic day saw us pick up 31 points to sit in second place overnight. Suffolk had lost just three matches all day and led us by eleven points.

Standings after Day 1

Suffolk	24 42
Hertfordshire	24 31
Norfolk	24 30
Cambridgeshire	24 26
Sunderland	24 23
Essex	24 20
Durham	24 20
Bedfordshire	24 13
Northumberland	24 11

Sunday

Session 10

Teams D-F would get the day off and running with three matches against Bedfordshire looking to consolidate our second place. Things could not have gone any worse for us as all three teams suffered defeat. D going down to a 10-8 loss. E losing their game 10-6 and F being well beaten 12-4.

Session 11

This would be our sit out session with A-C not starting till later in the day.

Session 12

A very important session for D-F as we next faced Norfolk who were looking like our strongest challengers for the runners up spot. All three games were incredibly close and very much in the balance going into the final ends. Team D come out on the wrong side of a narrow 6-5 loss. Team E secured an equally tight 7-5 win. In the final game, which felt like a very important one for our chances of finishing 2nd, Team F held a match lie. However, with the last wood of the match the Norfolk skip took shot and with it a 6-4 win.

Session 13

Durham would be the first opponents of the day for D-F. Team C controlled their match from start to finish and recorded a good 11-3 win. Team A whilst never completely out of their game were always behind and looking like they would come up a little short which they did, losing 9-5. Team B were a long way behind in their match but a strong finish to the game was enough to secure a 10-10 draw.

Session 14

D-F next faced Essex, who were also very much in the running for 2nd spot. D played well in their game and always looked like taking the win which they did 12-1. E were involved in the closest game of the session and it was perhaps fitting that it ended in a 7-7 draw. Team F were unable to gain any further points as they fell to an 8-4 loss.

Session 15

A-C were back in action with their penultimate match against Sunderland. Team C raced into a 7-0 lead and despite a mid-game wobble were able to ensure they controlled the final end to just drop two shots and take a 10-7 win. Both teams A and B were always in front in their games and despite not surging away from their opposition did enough to stay in front and record wins of 9-5 and 12-9 respectively.

Session 16

D-F would play Suffolk in their penultimate session. Team D and F were always behind and never got back in to their matches and lost 13-6 (D) and 13-4 (F). E managed to secure a 7-7 draw to prevent a whitewash session.

Session 17

Last game of the weekend for A-C and they would finish up against Cambridgeshire who were now also in with a chance of the runners up spot. Teams A & B were never really in their matches and suffered defeats 6-12 (A) and 2-13 (B). Team C managed to secure an important win 10-8.

Session 18

The final session of the weekend and D-F had three games against Northumberland. To finish second we would need to win all three games and hope other results went our way. We managed the first part with three solid wins 11-4 (D), 10-4 (E) and 13-6 (F). However, other results did not go our way and it would end up being a 4th place finish.

The final table is shown below. We would have more than likely taken a 4th place finish at the start of the weekend. However, after such a strong Saturday where we sat in second spot we ultimately had to be a little disappointed to finish 4th. In a weekend where you play 48 games across two days there are always twists and turns. Ultimately if we had managed to hold the match tie position against Norfolk in the game early on Sunday that would have been enough to secure us second spot. More generally, losing the match 8-4 to Bedfordshire ultimately cost us too. They were the only county other than Suffolk to beat us. Congratulations again to Suffolk who were deserving winners.

	Sat	Sun	Total
Suffolk	42	35	77
Norfolk	30	28	58
Cambridgeshire	26	29	55
Hertfordshire	31	23	54
Essex	20	30	50
Sunderland	23	20	43
Durham	20	16	36
Bedfordshire	13	21	34
Northumberland	11	14	25

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	13-5	6-12	5-9	7-12	11-4	11-5	4-7	9-5	8	8	66	59
B	8-7	2-13	10-10	13-2	9-11	12-6	6-5	12-9	8	11	72	63
C	1-9	10-8	11-3	9-7	10-7	16-4	7-8	10-7	8	12	74	53
D	8-10	11-6	15-1	12-1	5-6	11-4	6-13	3-11	8	8	71	52
E	6-10	5-9	11-6	7-7	7-5	10-4	7-7	5-5	8	9	58	53
F	4-12	11-2	7-6	4-8	4-6	13-6	4-13	5-9	8	6	52	62
Pts	4-8	6-6	9-3	7-5	6-6	12-0	3-9	7-5				