

ECCBA League Game – Sunday 15th February 2015

Suffolk v Hertfordshire

Chamberlain Hall (Bildeston)

Hertfordshire played their fourth ECCBA league fixture of the season away to Suffolk on 15th February 2015. At the start of the day we sat in 2nd place, nine points behind Suffolk and needed a win to maintain any hopes of winning the title.

The team chose to represent Hertfordshire was as follows;

H1	H2	H3
1. Tom Slade	1. Mary Cobbold	1. Jackie Harden
2. Jacqui Harris	2. Gill Barraclough	2. Margaret Forrest
3. Rebecca Hearn	3. Annette Luedtke	3. Marilyn Cook
4. Jason Ellis	4. Rob Washbrook	4. Pete Cook
H4	H5	H6
1. Roy Harden	1. Lynda Coates	1. Thomas Ellis
2. Peter English	2. Ian Carter	2. Andy Cobbold
3. Dave Smith	3. Paul Harris	3. Sandra Gammage
4. Mick Cook	4. Craig Hearn	4. David Danby

Session 1

It was the odd numbers up first looking to get us off to a good start. H1 fell behind early and whilst they managed to get back in contention at 9-5 they couldn't maintain their fight back and lost the game 13-5. H5 took a two shot lead into the last end of their game but a poor last end saw them several shots down. A good shot from our skip cut the count down to a single and holding match lie. The Suffolk skip managed to promote another shot into the head with his last wood though and secure a 7-7 draw. H3 started well and picked up 4 shots on the first end. Their opponents battled back though and H3 held a narrow 7-6 lead going into the last end. Suffolk held two shots with the last bowl to come. The H3 skip was far too narrow and the game looked lost.... however, a short blocker was hit which rolled up slowly into the head and managed to just move a wood forward half an inch to steal the shot and with it the game 8-6. Without doubt one of the luckiest bowls of all time, a 3-3 first session was a solid start. Could we now build on that good fortune?

Session 2

H2 and H4 never got into their games in the 2nd session. Both dropped a count of 5 on the first end and they both struggled to recover. H2 ended up losing 14-4 while H4 only managed a slightly better score at 14-5. H6 were involved in a tight match with their opponents and it always looked like it might come down to the later ends of the game before the match was decided. H6 opened up an advantage going into the last end which they were able to defend and win the game 10-5.

Session 3

All three games in the 3rd session were tight from the start and it looked like it would be a vital session in deciding the outcome of the overall result. H5 were able to gain momentum from the fortuitous win in the first session. They were involved in a see-saw match with their opponents and two shots were obtained on the last end to seal an 8-7 win. H1 and H5 were unable to secure any more points from the session though as they fell to 7-5 and 10-6 defeats respectively.

At the halfway stage Suffolk led 11-7 but we had shown enough in the first half of the day to suggest that we could come away with a good result.

Session 4

The 4th session started so well and we secured early leads in all three matches. However, Suffolk showed their class and the reason why they are defending champions by turning all three matches around in their favour. H6 led their game 6-0 but failed to secure another shot after that and lost the match 10-6 (Their first league defeat of the season). It was a similar story for H2 & H4 as their opponents won the majority of the middle-late ends and both games were lost 9-5 and 7-5.

Session 5

Our best session of the day as we picked up points in all three sessions. H1 having lost their first two games showed great character to pick up two counts of 3 on the 8th and 9th ends to secure an unlikely draw. H5 always looked in control of their game without ever opening up a substantial lead but they managed to just maintain their advantage throughout the match and finished with a 9-5 win. H3 trailed 5-0 in their match but produced a great turnaround to not drop an after that and with the match 9-5.

After the disappointment of the 4th session to take a 5-1 session win showed great character and is probably one of the main reasons why we are having such a successful season. The score was now 18-12 to Suffolk and we still had an outside chance of securing an overall draw.

Session 6

Three more close matches but only H2 were able to add to our points tally as they picked up their first win of the day. H6 after losing their first game of the season in the previous session were unable to respond as they lost their match 10-6. H4 were well in their game and only tailed 7-4 going into the final end. Trying to gain the three shots they needed for a point they were unsuccessful and the game was lost 10-4.

The final result was a 22(153) – 14 (122) win for Suffolk. Hertfordshire had bowled well throughout the day and could be pleased with their efforts. The 4th session was the crucial one in the end as all three games were lost and with it any chance of victory. The improvement in the team over the last two seasons has been fantastic and if we can continue our level of improvement I am confident that we can continue to challenge nearer to the top of the table.

Each team's performance on the day is shown below. A special mention to H3 who won all three games. A good achievement in any ECCBA League fixture but a great effort away to Suffolk.

	W	D	L	SF	SA	Pts
H1	0	1	2	20	30	1
H2	1	0	2	19	27	2
H3	3	0	0	25	18	6
H4	0	0	3	14	31	0
H5	1	1	1	22	22	3
H6	1	0	2	22	25	2
Total	6	2	10	122	153	14