

Six Counties Championship – Sunday 28th September 2014

Littleport Leisure Centre – (Hosted by Suffolk)

Hertfordshire played their first ECCBA competition of the season at Littleport Leisure Centre on Sunday 28th September. The team chose to represent Hertfordshire was as follows;

Singles

H1	H2	H3	H4
Paul Harris	Margaret Forrest	David Danby	Alan Bull

Pairs

H1	H2	H3	H4
1. Martin Simpson 2. Jason Ellis	1. Mary Cobbold 2. Rob Washbrook	1. Ian Carter 2. Sandra Gammage	1. Shirley Davidson 2. Pete Cook

Triples

H1	H2	H3	H4
1. Aaron Langley 2. Andy Cobbold 3. Mick Cook	1. Gill Baraclough 2. Roy Grethe 3. Dave Smith	1. Mike Bennett 2. Mary Grethe 3. Jonathon Carter	1. Jacqui Harris 2. Roy Harding 3. Marilyn Cook

Session 1

Essex were the first opponents of the day and the singles were up first. A very disappointing start as three of the teams never really looked like getting in to their games while H2 let an early lead slip away. We ended up with four defeats 8-3 (H1), 10-6 (H2), 8-2 (H3), and 12-1 (H4).

Session 2

The pairs were next to play and were looking to make a recovery after the first session. H3 got off to a great start and picked up 5 shots on their 1st end and controlled the game from their winning the match 10-6. H1 got off to a terrible start dropping a 4 on their first end but battled hard and managed to turn the match around and took victory 8-4 (without dropping another shot). H4 also got off to a slow start and trailed 4-0 after two ends they however also turned their game around taking an 8-6 win. H2 were unable to complete a clean sweep as they suffered a 7-4 defeat.

Session 3

Last up were the triples, three victories were needed to gain an unexpected draw after losing all four matches in the first session. All games were reasonably close but only the one victory was secured H4 taking a 7-5 win. H1 lost their match 8-3, H3 lost by the same score and H2 lost 9-6.

Overall a disappointing result as we lost 16-8 to Essex. We know we are capable of better after beating Essex away from home last season. Although after losing the first four singles games it could have been worse.

Session 4

Cambridgeshire were our next opponents. All four singles players would be looking to get of the mark after their slow starts against Essex. H3 and H4 both managed to do that as they won two very close games. H3 come out 5-4 winners and H4 won their game 6-4. H1 & H2 never quite got in to their matches and ends ran away from them as they suffered 9-3 (H1) and 10-3 (H2) defeats. Still a good start against Cambridgeshire who would be looking to win the title

Session 5

The pairs were up next and we again managed to split the session. H2 who were the only pair to lose in the first session come out on top of a tight tactical affair and won their match 5-4. H3 repeated their win from the first session as they took an early lead and maintained it through the game winning 9-3. H1 were on the wrong end of a close match as they suffered a narrow 7-5 defeat. H4 were never really in their game as their opponents played the better bowls and took a 7-1 victory.

Session 6

The triples were up last looking to take 5 points to secure an unlikely victory. H2 and H4 both secured good victories, H4 winning their match 7-4. H2 won convincingly with a 12-3 victory. H1 and H3 however were unable to secure anymore points as they were soundly beaten 10-4 (H1) and 10-2 (H3).

A very pleasing 12-12 draw with Cambridgeshire, even more pleasing after the poor start we made against Essex.

Session 7

Suffolk were the next opponents, a difficult match was expected against the strongest team and the early leaders.

The singles got us off to an encouraging start as H4 won a tight match 7-5 and H2 secured a 6-6 draw to get us some early points on the board. H1 were always chasing their game a little and ended up going down to an 8-1 defeat. H3 were also always chasing their game a little and never got close enough to their opponent as they suffered a 10-3 defeat.

Session 8

A disappointing session as we only ever looked like getting anything out of one of the games. H2 despite keeping the game low scoring never really looked like getting anything out of the game as they lost 6-1. H3 struggled to get into their match as they were on the wrong end of an 11-2 defeat. H4 were outbowled by their opponents as the score suggested, they failed to win an end and lost 11-0.

Session 9

The triples were looking to respond positively after the pairs failed to pick up any points in the previous session. It was not to be though as they failed to make any real impression on their matches. H1 and H3 both kept their games reasonably close but run out of ends as they lost 8-3 (H1) and 9-5 (H3). H2 and H4 were beaten a little more comfortable as they went down to 12-5 (H2) and 10-2 (H4) defeats.

After an encouraging start from the singles we did not manage to pick up a singles point in the pairs and triples and were soundly beaten. All was still to play for though as we played Norfolk and Bedfordshire in the final two session who were closest to us in the table.

Session 10

Norfolk were our next opponents, the singles would be looking to get us off to a bright start. H4 were the only team that were able to do so as they bowled a steady game and defeated their opponent 10-6. H3 were a little unfortunate in their match, leading by one going into the last end he played a very good first wood only to see his opponent draw two woods with in an inch of the jack to take a very close win 6-5. H1 were never really in their game as they suffered a 10-3 defeat. A very similar story for H2 who lost their game 10-1.

Session 11

The pairs were next to play. All four games were extremely close and looked like they could go either way up to the last few ends. Unfortunately only H4 could secure a win and they needed 3 shots on the last end to do so taking the match 8-7. All of the other three teams went down to narrow defeats 5-4 (H1), 8-5 (H2), and 7-4 (H3).

Session 12

Into the last session against Norfolk and the triples know they had to improve on the singles and pairs results to give us a chance of moving up the table in the final session. They managed to do that as we split the final session with two wins each. H1 took an 8-3 victory, H2 were defeated 7-3. H3 managed to secure an 8-5 win and H4 lost a tight game 6-4.

A disappointing result against Norfolk as we lost 16-8. Similar to the Essex game we showed that we are more than a match for Norfolk but beating them away from home in the league last season. We had to try and improve our consistency to show that last seasons improved performances were not a one off.

Session 13

Despite the defeat to Norfolk we headed into the final three session with the chance to finish 4th. We started the 13th session in last place but were just 2 points behind Bedfordshire (who we played) and four points behind Norfolk (who played Cambridgeshire). The singles got us off to a steady start with

H3 coming from 4-0 down to win their match 10-5. H1 won the closest of games as singles on every end saw the score finish 4-3 in their favour. H2 and H4 kept their games close but both lost 7-4.

Session 14

Another split session for the pairs. H3 never got in to their match and lost it 10-1. H1 fell behind early and tried to fight back but run out of ends as they lost 10-7. H2 and H4 were both involved in tight games but both managed to secure crucial victories, H2 won their game 8-6 and H4 won their game 5-4.

Session 15

Heading into the final session we were still 2 points behind Bedfordshire and Norfolk. We needed to win as many of the final games as possible to try and ensure we finished as high as possible. H3 and H4 both managed to secure crucial victories, H3 taking their match 7-4 and H4 bowling very well to finish the day with a convincing 12-1 win. The final two games could go either way as we headed in to the final end. H2 lead 6-5 but were one shot down as they skip come to bowl. Two good draw shots to a jack that had been moved to the left corner of the mat secured an 8-5. That ensured we would now finish above Bedfordshire. Norfolk Had taken 4 points in their final session against Cambridgeshire, we were therefore tied on points. If we could win the final match we would definitely finish 4th if not it would come down to shots. With the match tied at 4-4 the Hertfordshire skip was unable to get in for shot and the match was lost 6-4.

A pleasing way to end the day as we defeated Bedfordshire 14-10. Agonisingly Norfolk had finished above us by just two shots, it goes to show how important every shot in every game is and how it can all matter at the end of the day. The final table is shown below, congratulations to Suffolk who were by far the best team on the day and took the title by a clear 12 points.

Position	Team	Points	Shots For	Shots Against
1.	Suffolk	87	473	260
2.	Essex	75	405	335
3.	Cambridgeshire	65	406	337
4.	Norfolk	45	301	388
5.	Hertfordshire	45	299	415
6.	Bedfordshire	43	291	440

The Hertfordshire team's performances on the day are shown below;

Singles

	W	D	L	SF	SA	Pts
H1	1	0	4	14	38	2
H2	0	1	4	20	43	1
H3	2	0	3	25	33	4
H4	3	0	2	28	34	6

Pairs

	W	D	L	SF	SA	Pts
H1	1	0	4	28	31	2
H2	2	0	3	23	31	4
H3	2	0	3	26	37	4
H4	3	0	2	22	35	6

Triples

	W	D	L	SF	SA	Pts
H1	1	0	4	22	35	2
H2	2	0	3	34	36	4
H3	2	0	3	25	36	4
H4	3	0	2	32	26	6