

ECBA Champion of Champions 2016
Stanley Indoor Bowls Centre, Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th

Fours Report

The representatives for Hertfordshire over the weekend were;

Ron Hart, Doreen Hart (replacing Craig Hearn who was ill), Rebecca Hearn & Jason Ellis

Session 1

A tough opener for our 4's as they faced Cambridgeshire. It was a tight game but Cambridgeshire always held the lead and looked likely to maintain it and did so winning 7-4

Durham led the way after the first session with a convincing 14-4 win over Essex

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Agst	Points
1	Durham	1	1	0	0	14	4	2
2	Norfolk	1	1	0	0	9	3	2
3	Sunderland	1	1	0	0	8	5	2
4	Cambridgeshire	1	1	0	0	7	4	2
5	Northumberland	1	0	0	1	5	8	0
6	Hertfordshire	1	0	0	1	4	7	0
7	Essex	1	0	0	1	4	14	0
8	Bedfordshire	1	0	0	1	3	9	0
9	Suffolk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Session 2

Another tricky looking match for our team as they faced an experienced Durham four. A better performance from start to finish as they eased away to a 14-2 win. Norfolk were the early pace setters and were the only team who had won both games. Northumberland & Essex being the only two teams yet to pick up a point.

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Agst	Points
1	Norfolk	2	2	0	0	17	8	4
2	Sunderland	2	1	1	0	14	11	3
3	Hertfordshire	2	1	0	1	18	9	2
4	Durham	2	1	0	1	16	18	2
5	Cambridgeshire	2	1	0	1	12	12	2
6	Bedfordshire	2	1	0	1	10	14	2
7	Suffolk	1	0	1	0	6	6	1
8	Northumberland	2	0	0	2	10	15	0
9	Essex	1	0	0	1	4	14	0

Session 3

Our team looking to build on the win over Essex were able to do. In a match where they were never completely pulled away from their opposition they always looked reasonably in control and took a 9-3 win.

After a disappointing start that win moved us up to 2nd place behind Norfolk who had won all three games. Suffolk & Sunderland also were unbeaten with a win and a draw.

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Agst	Points
1	Norfolk	3	3	0	0	27	15	6
2	Hertfordshire	3	2	0	1	27	12	4
3	Cambridgeshire	3	2	0	1	23	19	4
4	Suffolk	2	1	1	0	17	14	3
5	Sunderland	2	1	1	0	14	11	3
6	Durham	3	1	0	2	23	28	2
7	Bedfordshire	3	1	0	2	18	25	2
8	Northumberland	3	0	0	3	17	26	0
9	Essex	2	0	0	2	7	23	0

Session 4

This was the 4's sit out session. The leaders Norfolk surprisingly lost their 100% record as they were beaten by Essex, who in the process picked up their first points of the weekend. Suffolk & Sunderland both won their games to maintain their unbeaten records.

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Agst	Points
1	Norfolk	4	3	0	1	32	21	6
2	Suffolk	3	2	1	0	24	17	5
3	Sunderland	3	2	1	0	22	18	5
4	Durham	4	2	0	2	35	33	4
5	Hertfordshire	3	2	0	1	27	12	4
6	Cambridgeshire	4	2	0	2	26	26	4
7	Bedfordshire	4	1	0	3	25	33	2
8	Essex	3	1	0	2	13	28	2
9	Northumberland	4	0	0	4	22	38	0

Session 5

The final session of the day and a match they would need to win to stay in contention on Sunday. They were up against a Norfolk team who had just lost their 100% record in the previous session. Our team raced away into a 6-0 lead and looked in control. However, some poor middle ends in the match allowed Norfolk back into it and we only led 8-6 going into the final end. With the Norfolk skip trying to force the issue and pick up one or two shots moved the jack to the end of the carpet and ended up giving away five shots meaning the final score of 13-6 was a lot more comfortable than it actually was.

After starting the day with a loss three straight wins had left our fours in 3rd place overnight. Having to play the two teams above them it was in their own hands going into Sunday's play. Norfolk having started so strong were now playing catch up to the top three. Suffolk led the way on shots from Sunderland.

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Agst	Points
1	Suffolk	4	3	1	0	36	24	7
2	Sunderland	4	3	1	0	33	25	7
3	Hertfordshire	4	3	0	1	40	18	6
4	Norfolk	5	3	0	2	38	34	6
5	Durham	5	2	0	3	42	45	4
6	Cambridgeshire	5	2	0	3	33	37	4
7	Essex	4	2	0	2	20	34	4
8	Bedfordshire	4	1	0	3	25	33	2
9	Northumberland	5	0	0	5	28	45	0

Session 6

The first session of Sunday morning saw our team get off to a confident start as they controlled the match from start to finish and secured their biggest win of the weekend with a 16-2 win over Northumberland.

Suffolk and Sunderland kept up their winning ways with wins over Essex and Durham.

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Agst	Points
1	Suffolk	5	4	1	0	47	33	9
2	Sunderland	5	4	1	0	46	29	9
3	Hertfordshire	5	4	0	1	56	20	8
4	Cambridgeshire	6	3	0	3	42	45	6
5	Norfolk	5	3	0	2	38	34	6
6	Durham	6	2	0	4	46	58	4
7	Essex	5	2	0	3	29	45	4
8	Bedfordshire	5	1	0	4	33	42	2
9	Northumberland	6	0	0	6	30	61	0

Session 7

The first of back to back matches against the top two and match against Suffolk. Our team never quite got into the game and needing a big shot count on the final end were unable to get it and lost the match 10-3. This result meant that our team now trailed Suffolk (and Sunderland who beat Essex) by three points with just two games to play would need favours from other teams to take the title.

Norfolk's outside chance of the title was over after they suffered their third straight loss this time to a previously pointless Northumberland team.

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Agst	Points
1	Suffolk	6	5	1	0	57	36	11
2	Sunderland	6	5	1	0	55	34	11
3	Hertfordshire	6	4	0	2	59	30	8
4	Cambridgeshire	6	3	0	3	42	45	6
5	Norfolk	6	3	0	3	41	43	6
6	Durham	7	2	0	5	54	70	4
7	Bedfordshire	6	2	0	4	45	50	4
8	Essex	6	2	0	4	34	54	4
9	Northumberland	7	1	0	6	39	64	2

Session 8

To have any hope of the title going into the final session our team would have to beat Sunderland, who had yet to lose a game. They would also need Norfolk to beat Suffolk. The first part of the equation went for them as Norfolk won 9-4. In arguably their best performance of the weekend our team defeated Sunderland 8-5.

These results meant going into the final session our team trailed the leaders by a single point but did have superior shots. Therefore, they would need to win and hope that Suffolk & Sunderland either lost or drew. Suffolk led by just a single shot over Sunderland.

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Agst	Points
1	Suffolk	7	5	1	1	61	45	11
2	Sunderland	7	5	1	1	60	42	11
3	Hertfordshire	7	5	0	2	67	35	10
4	Cambridgeshire	7	4	0	3	60	47	8
5	Norfolk	7	4	0	3	50	47	8
6	Bedfordshire	7	3	0	4	57	56	6
7	Durham	8	2	0	6	56	88	4
8	Essex	7	2	0	5	40	66	4
9	Northumberland	7	1	0	6	39	64	2

Session 9

Norfolk, having beaten Suffolk in the previous session done Hertfordshire another favour as they beat Sunderland. This meant a win for Hertfordshire over Bedfordshire and a draw or loss for Suffolk against Northumberland would hand us the title. Unfortunately Bedfordshire proved to be tough opposition and won the match 9-7. Suffolk did enough in their match anyway as they eased to a 14-6 win over Northumberland.

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Agst	Points
1	Suffolk	8	6	1	1	75	51	13
2	Sunderland	8	5	1	2	66	53	11
3	Hertfordshire	8	5	0	3	74	44	10
4	Cambridgeshire	8	5	0	3	71	51	10
5	Norfolk	8	5	0	3	61	53	10
6	Bedfordshire	8	4	0	4	66	63	8
7	Durham	8	2	0	6	56	88	4
8	Essex	8	2	0	6	44	77	4
9	Northumberland	8	1	0	7	45	78	2

The final session of results meant a 3rd place finish for our team. Three points behind the winners Suffolk. A good performance but unfortunately just coming up a little short.

Winners: Sue Gilder, Shirley Watkins, Mick Watkins & Andy Gilder (Suffolk)

Triples Report

The representatives for Hertfordshire over the weekend were;

Marilyn Cook, Mick Cook & Pete Cook

Session 1

A match with Cambridgeshire first for our triple. They got off to a slow start and fell behind early. However, they improved as the game went on and managed to win the later ends of the match and take a 9-5 win.

With no team scoring more than nine shots or winning by more than four shots, this was an early indication as to how close the competition was going to be.

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Agst	Points
1	Hertfordshire	1	1	0	0	9	5	2
2	Sunderland	1	1	0	0	9	6	2
3	Bedfordshire	1	1	0	0	9	7	2
4	Durham	1	1	0	0	7	4	2
5	Norfolk	1	0	0	1	7	9	0
6	Northumberland	1	0	0	1	6	9	0
7	Cambridgeshire	1	0	0	1	5	9	0
8	Essex	1	0	0	1	4	7	0
9	Suffolk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Session 2

In their worst performance of the weekend, our triple never really got going and were easily beaten by the Durham triple.

Durham (2/2), Bedfordshire (2/2) and Suffolk (1/1) were the only three unbeaten teams after just two matches.

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Agst	Points
1	Durham	2	2	0	0	18	8	4
2	Bedfordshire	2	2	0	0	17	14	4
3	Sunderland	2	1	0	1	15	13	2
4	Hertfordshire	2	1	0	1	13	16	2
5	Cambridgeshire	2	1	0	1	13	16	2
6	Suffolk	1	1	0	0	7	6	2
7	Norfolk	2	0	0	2	14	17	0
8	Northumberland	2	0	0	2	13	17	0
9	Essex	1	0	0	1	4	7	0

Session 3

Essex were the next opposition. A poor start to the game and our triple found themselves 7-1 behind. However, they managed to battle back and secure a 7-7 draw.

Durham and Bedfordshire were both beaten, Suffolk joined them on four points and now had two wins from two games. We were in fourth place just a point behind the leaders.

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Agst	Points
1	Durham	3	2	0	1	24	22	4
2	Bedfordshire	3	2	0	1	23	21	4
3	Suffolk	2	2	0	0	14	12	4
4	Hertfordshire	3	1	1	1	20	23	3
5	Norfolk	3	1	0	2	28	23	2
6	Northumberland	3	1	0	2	22	23	2
7	Cambridgeshire	3	1	0	2	19	25	2
8	Sunderland	2	1	0	1	15	13	2
9	Essex	2	0	1	1	11	14	1

Session 4

This was the sit out session for the team, so it was likely that teams would move ahead of us or move further away.

Bedfordshire returned to winning ways to move to the top of the table. It was very close with just four points separating bottom to top and the bottom three teams all having games in hand on almost all of the teams above them.

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Agst	Points
1	Bedfordshire	4	3	0	1	36	28	6
2	Cambridgeshire	4	2	0	2	34	30	4
3	Northumberland	4	2	0	2	31	27	4
4	Durham	4	2	0	2	28	31	4
5	Suffolk	3	2	0	1	19	27	4
6	Norfolk	4	1	1	2	35	30	3
7	Hertfordshire	3	1	1	1	20	23	3
8	Sunderland	3	1	0	2	22	26	2
9	Essex	3	0	2	1	18	21	2

Session 5

The final session of the day and an important one. A win was needed to stay in contention on Sunday.

The opponents were Norfolk who soundly beat our triple in the Eastern Counties event. However, a great start and a 9-0 lead was built up. A couple of wobbly ends in the middle looked like letting Norfolk back in but eventually an impressive 13-4 win was secured.

Overnight it looked like being anybody's completion. With only Norfolk and Essex looking out of contention. Northumberland having lost their first two games had won three in a row and led the way on six points. Our team despite being in 4th place had it in their own hands as they had to play all of the teams above them.

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Agst	Points
1	Northumberland	5	3	0	2	38	32	6
2	Bedfordshire	4	3	0	1	36	28	6
3	Suffolk	4	3	0	1	31	30	6
4	Hertfordshire	4	2	1	1	33	27	5
5	Cambridgeshire	5	2	0	3	39	37	4
6	Durham	5	2	0	3	31	43	4
7	Sunderland	4	2	0	2	29	31	4
8	Norfolk	5	1	1	3	39	43	3
9	Essex	4	0	2	2	23	28	2

Session 6

The first match of the day was against the overnight leaders Northumberland. We trailed for the whole game and were 8-6 behind going into the final end, needing to score 2 or 3 shots on the final end we were unable to do so and lost the match 9-6.

This now meant that our fate was not in our own hands and we would need favours from other teams. With matches still to play against three of the five teams above us it was not impossible but looked unlikely at this stage.

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Agst	Points
1	Northumberland	6	4	0	2	47	38	8
2	Suffolk	5	4	0	1	39	33	8
3	Cambridgeshire	6	3	0	3	52	42	6
4	Bedfordshire	5	3	0	2	41	41	6
5	Sunderland	5	3	0	2	38	35	6
6	Hertfordshire	5	2	1	2	39	36	5
7	Durham	6	2	0	4	35	52	4
8	Norfolk	5	1	1	3	39	43	3
9	Essex	5	0	2	3	26	36	2

Session 7

Second placed Suffolk was the next opponents who had won 4/5 of their matches. A tight match always looked likely and our team led 5-3 playing the final end. They managed to just hold on and secure two shots on the final end to win the match 7-3.

The unpredictable nature of the completion struck again as Northumberland lost to Norfolk and Bedfordshire lost to Durham. Sunderland now moved to the top on eight points but any team from 6th upwards were still in with a chance of taking the title. If our team could win their last two matches and Suffolk lost one of theirs then the title would be won.

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Agst	Points
1	Sunderland	6	4	0	2	52	39	8
2	Northumberland	7	4	0	3	50	46	8
3	Suffolk	6	4	0	2	42	40	8
4	Hertfordshire	6	3	1	2	46	39	7
5	Cambridgeshire	6	3	0	3	52	42	6
6	Bedfordshire	6	3	0	3	46	52	6
7	Durham	7	3	0	4	46	57	6
8	Norfolk	6	2	1	3	47	46	5
9	Essex	6	0	2	4	30	50	2

Session 8

The penultimate session of the weekend and a win over Sunderland was needed to retain any hopes of taking the title. Suffolk had lost their match against Norfolk 10-6. Therefore, a win over Sunderland and victory in the final round against Bedfordshire would be enough.

Some good early ends built up a lead, and at 10-5 on the final end it was just a case of ensuring they did not drop a big count which they were able to do and won the match 10-8. That result meant we moved to the top of the table for the first time since the first session. There were five team behind on eight points waiting to pounce on any Hertfordshire slip up.

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Agst	Points
1	Hertfordshire	7	4	1	2	56	47	9
2	Sunderland	7	4	0	3	60	49	8
3	Cambridgeshire	7	4	0	3	59	48	8
4	Bedfordshire	7	4	0	3	56	57	8
5	Northumberland	7	4	0	3	50	46	8
6	Suffolk	7	4	0	3	48	50	8
7	Norfolk	7	3	1	3	57	52	7
8	Durham	8	3	0	5	52	64	6
9	Essex	7	0	2	5	35	60	2

Session 9

Bedfordshire were the final opposition, still in with a chance of the title themselves. We never looked like losing the game though, opening up a 5-0 lead, which turned into a 16-1 lead. Dropped shots on the final couple of ends were an irrelevance as a 16-5 win was secured and with it the National title.

Cambridgeshire come through to secure second spot with a win over Essex with Sunderland and Northumberland in 3rd and 4th place. Just four points separated 7th placed Norfolk and the winners.

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Agst	Points
1	Hertfordshire	8	5	1	2	72	52	11
2	Cambridgeshire	8	5	0	3	73	52	10
3	Sunderland	8	5	0	3	73	56	10
4	Northumberland	8	5	0	3	60	55	10
5	Bedfordshire	8	4	0	4	61	73	8
6	Suffolk	8	4	0	4	57	60	8
7	Norfolk	8	3	1	4	64	65	7
8	Durham	8	3	0	5	52	64	6
9	Essex	8	0	2	6	39	74	2

Winners: Marilyn Cook, Mick Cook & Pete Cook (Hertfordshire)

Pairs Report

The representatives for Hertfordshire over the weekend were;

Roy Harden & Jackie Harden

Session 1

First up for the Herts pair was a match with Northumberland. A close game but unfortunately Jackie & Roy just come out on the wrong end of a 9-6 loss.

Cambridgeshire, Essex and Durham were the other teams winning their first matches.

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Agst	Points
1	Cambridgeshire	1	1	0	0	9	4	2
2	Northumberland	1	1	0	0	9	6	2
3	Essex	1	1	0	0	9	7	2
4	Durham	1	1	0	0	6	3	2
5	Suffolk	1	0	0	1	7	9	0
6	Hertfordshire	1	0	0	1	6	9	0
7	Bedfordshire	1	0	0	1	4	9	0
8	Sunderland	1	0	0	1	3	6	0
9	Norfolk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Session 2

Next up was a tough looking fixture as they would have to play Suffolk who had recently won the ECCBA champion of champions.

The Suffolk pair having lost their first game responded well with a good performance and unfortunately were just a bit too good for our pair as they won 14-5. A disappointing start for Jackie & Roy who would be looking to respond and start moving up the table in their next game. Northumberland & Durham were the early pace setters with wins in their first two games.

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Agst	Points
1	Northumberland	2	2	0	0	20	10	4
2	Durham	2	2	0	0	17	6	4
3	Suffolk	2	1	0	1	21	14	2
4	Essex	2	1	0	1	15	16	2
5	Sunderland	2	1	0	1	12	12	2
6	Cambridgeshire	1	1	0	0	9	4	2
7	Hertfordshire	2	0	0	2	11	23	0
8	Bedfordshire	2	0	0	2	7	20	0
9	Norfolk	1	0	0	1	4	11	0

Session 3

Jackie and Roy got their first point of the weekend with a 6-6 draw against Sunderland. With Durham losing and Northumberland not playing Essex and Cambridgeshire moved up to 1st and 2nd in the table.

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Agst	Points
1	Essex	3	2	0	1	25	20	4
2	Cambridgeshire	2	2	0	0	23	6	4
3	Northumberland	2	2	0	0	20	10	4
4	Durham	3	2	0	1	19	20	4
5	Suffolk	3	1	1	1	30	23	3
6	Sunderland	3	1	1	1	18	18	3
7	Hertfordshire	3	0	1	2	17	29	1
8	Norfolk	2	0	1	1	13	20	1
9	Bedfordshire	3	0	0	3	11	30	0

Session 4

The first win of the weekend for our pair as they well and secured a good 10-3 win over Bedfordshire. The only two unbeaten teams (Cambridgeshire & Northumberland) both lost to really tighten up the table. Jackie and Roy sat in 6th place, just three points behind the leaders.

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Agst	Points
1	Essex	4	3	0	1	35	26	6
2	Suffolk	4	2	1	1	41	28	5
3	Cambridgeshire	3	2	0	1	29	16	4
4	Northumberland	3	2	0	1	25	21	4
5	Durham	3	2	0	1	19	20	4
6	Hertfordshire	4	1	1	2	27	32	3
7	Sunderland	4	1	1	2	23	24	3
8	Norfolk	3	1	1	1	19	25	3
9	Bedfordshire	4	0	0	4	14	40	0

Session 5

The final session of the day was a match against Cambridgeshire. To have any hopes of a run at the title Jackie & Roy would need to win this match. That is exactly what they did as they inflicted a second straight loss on the Cambridgeshire pair with a 9-5 win.

Jackie & Roy were in 4th place overnight but level on points with the teams in 2nd & 3rd. Whilst they were three points behind the leaders, they had to play two of the three teams above them so were still in with a realistic chance.

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Agst	Points
1	Essex	5	4	0	1	43	33	8
2	Suffolk	4	2	1	1	41	28	5
3	Sunderland	5	2	1	2	36	27	5
4	Hertfordshire	5	2	1	2	36	37	5
5	Cambridgeshire	4	2	0	2	34	25	4
6	Northumberland	4	2	0	2	28	34	4
7	Norfolk	4	1	2	1	27	33	4
8	Durham	4	2	0	2	26	28	4
9	Bedfordshire	5	0	1	4	22	48	1

Session 6

Unfortunately any hopes of the title were gone in the first session on Sunday as they were beaten 12-8 by the experienced Durham pair. They slipped down to 6th place in the table and would now be looking to win their final two games to add to the team point's total. Essex didn't play, with Sunderland, Cambridgeshire & Durham closing the gap on them.

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Agst	Points
1	Essex	5	4	0	1	43	33	8
2	Sunderland	6	3	1	2	47	29	7
3	Cambridgeshire	5	3	0	2	45	33	6
4	Durham	5	3	0	2	38	36	6
5	Northumberland	5	3	0	2	34	39	6
6	Hertfordshire	6	2	1	3	44	49	5
7	Suffolk	5	2	1	2	43	39	5
8	Norfolk	5	1	2	2	35	44	4
9	Bedfordshire	6	0	1	5	27	54	1

Session 7

A match against the leaders Essex in session 7. A very close game that always looked like it was going to come down to the final woods on the final end. Agonisingly Jackie & Roy just come up a little short and lost the match 8-7 and slipped down to 7th place in the table.

The win for Essex extended their lead at the top to two points, with Cambridgeshire & Durham hoping to take advantage of any slip ups from the leaders.

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Agst	Points
1	Essex	6	5	0	1	51	40	10
2	Cambridgeshire	6	4	0	2	53	40	8
3	Durham	6	4	0	2	49	38	8
4	Sunderland	6	3	1	2	47	29	7
5	Suffolk	6	2	2	2	52	48	6
6	Northumberland	6	3	0	3	41	47	6
7	Hertfordshire	7	2	1	4	51	57	5
8	Norfolk	6	1	2	3	37	55	4
9	Bedfordshire	7	0	2	5	36	63	2

Session 8

No game for Jackie & Roy in this session.

Essex thumped Norfolk 20-2 to all but secure the title. Cambridgeshire & Durham won their matches 9-8 and 8-6 respectively but Essex held a two point advantage over both teams. More significantly the win over Norfolk meant that they held a 14 shot advantage over Durham and a 9 shot advantage over Cambridgeshire. Therefore, even if Essex were beaten in their final match the other two teams would have to secure massive wins to overhaul them.

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Agst	Points
1	Essex	7	6	0	1	71	42	12
2	Cambridgeshire	7	5	0	2	62	48	10
3	Durham	7	5	0	2	57	44	10
4	Sunderland	7	4	1	2	60	30	9
5	Suffolk	7	2	2	3	60	57	6
6	Northumberland	7	3	0	4	47	55	6
7	Hertfordshire	7	2	1	4	51	57	5
8	Norfolk	7	1	2	4	39	75	4
9	Bedfordshire	8	0	2	6	37	76	2

Session 9

The final game of the weekend for our pair was a match against Norfolk. Another tight encounter and this time Jackie & Roy managed to secure a 9-8 win. A good way to finish the weekend and a respectable 6th place finish.

Cambridgeshire's chances of the title went as they were well beaten 14-6 by Sunderland. Essex were involved in a tight game with Northumberland but were beaten 7-6. This left the door ajar for Durham, who would need to win but in doing so score 20 shots. They managed the first part of the equation but never looked like doing the second part as they scored two on the last end to secure a narrow 6-4 win over Suffolk.

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Agst	Points
1	Essex	8	6	0	2	77	49	12
2	Durham	8	6	0	2	63	48	12
3	Sunderland	8	5	1	2	74	36	11
4	Cambridgeshire	8	5	0	3	68	62	10
5	Northumberland	8	4	0	4	54	61	8
6	Hertfordshire	8	3	1	4	60	65	7
7	Suffolk	8	2	2	4	64	63	6
8	Norfolk	8	1	2	5	47	84	4
9	Bedfordshire	8	0	2	6	37	76	2

Winners: Maxine Poulter & Don Poulter (Essex)

Singles Report

The representatives for Hertfordshire over the weekend was;

Jack Smalley

Session 1

Jack playing in his first ever National Championships would be keen to get off to a good start and settle any early nerves. That is exactly what he did, he had to fight hard against his opponent from Northumberland but managed to win the last end and take the game 7-6.

Cambridgeshire & Essex also started with wins.

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Agst	Points
1	Cambridgeshire	1	1	0	0	10	3	2
2	Essex	1	1	0	0	9	7	2
3	Hertfordshire	1	1	0	0	7	6	2
4	Durham	1	0	1	0	7	7	1
5	Sunderland	1	0	1	0	7	7	1
6	Suffolk	1	0	0	1	7	9	0
7	Northumberland	1	0	0	1	6	7	0
8	Bedfordshire	1	0	0	1	3	10	0
9	Norfolk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Session 2

Next up for Jack was Suffolk. Never getting into the game, the Suffolk player showed his quality with a convincing 16-3 win. Although as the Suffolk player had lost his first game this defeat would not be fatal to Jack's chances. He slipped down to 7th place in the table but was only a single point behind the leader.

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Agst	Points
1	Durham	2	1	1	0	19	10	3
2	Sunderland	2	1	1	0	18	12	3
3	Suffolk	2	1	0	1	23	12	2
4	Essex	2	1	0	1	14	18	2
5	Northumberland	2	1	0	1	13	12	2
6	Cambridgeshire	1	1	0	0	10	3	2
7	Hertfordshire	2	1	0	1	10	22	2
8	Bedfordshire	2	0	0	2	6	22	0
9	Norfolk	1	0	0	1	5	7	0

Session 3

Sunderland was the next opponents for Jack. They had made a good start having picked up a win and a draw in their first two matches. It was a close game from start to finish and Jack held match lie on the final end. Unfortunately with the final bowl of the game the Sunderland player took Jack's holding wood out of the head and stayed to hold two shots and win the match 8-6.

Durham and Sunderland led the way after winning two and drawing one (with each other) of their first three matches. Jack would not be able to slip up anymore if he wanted to retain any chance of winning the title.

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Agst	Points
1	Durham	3	2	1	0	28	13	5
2	Sunderland	3	2	1	0	26	18	5
3	Suffolk	3	2	0	1	34	13	4
4	Essex	3	2	0	1	21	21	4
5	Hertfordshire	3	1	0	2	16	30	2
6	Northumberland	2	1	0	1	13	12	2
7	Cambridgeshire	2	1	0	1	13	12	2
8	Bedfordshire	3	0	0	3	9	29	0
9	Norfolk	2	0	0	2	6	18	0

Session 4

Bedfordshire were the next opposition who were yet to pick up a point. Therefore, it was vita that Jack got back to winning ways. A close game but Jack just got the better of the final ends to secure an important 8-6 win.

Durham and sat that session out allowing Sunderland to move to the top of the standings. Suffolk had also moved up to second place with three straight wins after losing their first match.

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Agst	Points
1	Sunderland	4	3	1	0	35	22	7
2	Suffolk	4	3	0	1	50	15	6
3	Durham	3	2	1	0	28	13	5
4	Essex	4	2	0	2	25	29	4
5	Hertfordshire	4	2	0	2	25	35	4
6	Cambridgeshire	3	2	0	1	21	16	4
7	Northumberland	3	1	0	2	15	28	2
8	Bedfordshire	4	0	0	4	14	38	0
9	Norfolk	3	0	0	3	10	27	0

Session 5

The final session of the day and a match with Cambridgeshire. Jack needed to win to stand any realistic chance for Sunday.

In a similar match to the one they had played in the Eastern Counties event, it was close throughout. However, Jack's opponent just did enough to secure a 7-4 win. That defeat left Jack in 5th place overnight but 5 points behind the leaders. With any title chances now gone, Jack would be looking to add points to the team's total on Sunday.

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Agst	Points
1	Sunderland	5	4	1	0	44	29	9
2	Durham	4	3	1	0	40	16	7
3	Suffolk	4	3	0	1	50	15	6
4	Cambridgeshire	4	3	0	1	28	20	6
5	Hertfordshire	5	2	0	3	29	42	4
6	Essex	5	2	0	3	28	41	4
7	Bedfordshire	5	1	0	4	23	43	2
8	Northumberland	4	1	0	3	22	37	2
9	Norfolk	4	0	0	4	15	36	0

Session 6

A tough looking game against Durham, who had yet to lose, to start the day for Jack. He never got used to the speed of the carpet and his opponent whilst not picking up big scores chipped away picking up singles and two's and eased away to a comfortable 11-0 win.

With Suffolk beating Sunderland, the Durham player returned to the top of the standings. Just a single point separated the top four players. The defeat for Jack left him in 6th place in the standings.

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Agst	Points
1	Durham	5	4	1	0	51	16	9
2	Sunderland	6	4	1	1	45	42	9
3	Suffolk	5	4	0	1	63	16	8
4	Cambridgeshire	5	4	0	1	37	25	8
5	Northumberland	5	2	0	3	30	42	4
6	Hertfordshire	6	2	0	4	29	53	4
7	Essex	5	2	0	3	28	41	4
8	Bedfordshire	6	1	0	5	28	51	2
9	Norfolk	5	0	0	5	20	45	0

Session 7

Essex were the penultimate opponents for Jack, who needed a win to stay above him in the table. A close game, with Jack doing enough and securing a 9-6 win. The victory moved him above Northumberland into 5th place in the table.

All of the top four teams had played four games and were separated by just two points.

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Agst	Points
1	Durham	6	5	1	0	61	17	11
2	Suffolk	6	5	0	1	69	20	10
3	Cambridgeshire	6	5	0	1	51	29	10
4	Sunderland	6	4	1	1	45	42	9
5	Hertfordshire	7	3	0	4	38	59	6
6	Essex	6	2	0	4	34	50	4
7	Northumberland	6	2	0	4	34	56	4
8	Bedfordshire	7	1	0	6	32	57	2
9	Norfolk	6	0	0	6	21	55	0

Session 8

No match for Jack in the 8th session, which would go a long way to deciding who would win the title.

2nd faced 3rd as Suffolk played Cambridgeshire, the winner would retain hopes of the title going into the final session. In the other games Sunderland secured a narrow 7-6 win over Bedfordshire to keep them in the running. Durham looked like retaining top spot as they held a solid advantage over their opponent, however the Northumberland player chipped away at the lead and won the final end to take the match 8-7. That meant that the winner of the Suffolk v Cambs match would take the lead into the final session. The Suffolk player struggled to find the speed of the carpet and the match was lost 9-3

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Agst	Points
1	Cambridgeshire	7	6	0	1	60	32	12
2	Durham	7	5	1	1	68	25	11
3	Sunderland	7	5	1	1	52	48	11
4	Suffolk	7	5	0	2	72	29	10
5	Northumberland	7	3	0	4	42	63	6
6	Hertfordshire	7	3	0	4	38	59	6
7	Essex	7	2	1	4	39	55	5
8	Bedfordshire	8	1	0	7	38	64	2
9	Norfolk	7	0	1	6	26	60	1

Session 9

Jack finished the weekend with arguably his best performance as he comfortably won his game 13-2. The win meant Jack finished in a creditable 5th position considering this was his first National Championships and the singles field contained five previous winners.

The finish to the event was an exciting one. The Durham player won his match with Suffolk 10-4 which meant that Cambridgeshire had to win their game to take the title. He led 6-5 going into the final end and held championship lie but the Sunderland player took shot with his final bowl to tie the match and hand the title to Durham. In a role reversal from the previous year when the Cambridgeshire player had beaten the Durham player on shots this time the Durham player took the title by 12 shots.

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Agst	Points
1	Durham	8	6	1	1	78	29	13
2	Cambridgeshire	8	6	1	1	66	38	13
3	Sunderland	8	5	2	1	58	54	12
4	Suffolk	8	5	0	3	76	39	10
5	Hertfordshire	8	4	0	4	51	61	8
6	Northumberland	8	4	0	4	51	69	8
7	Essex	8	2	1	5	45	64	5
8	Bedfordshire	8	1	0	7	38	64	2
9	Norfolk	8	0	1	7	28	73	1

Winner: Ian Clark (Durham)

Team

Another solid team performance finishing in 4th place on 36 points. Eight points behind the winners Sunderland

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Agst	Points
1	Sunderland	32	20	4	8	271	199	44
2	Cambridgeshire	32	21	1	10	278	203	43
3	Suffolk	32	17	3	12	272	213	37
4	Hertfordshire	32	17	2	13	257	222	36
5	Durham	32	17	1	14	249	229	35
6	Northumberland	32	14	0	18	210	263	28
7	Essex	32	10	3	19	205	264	23
8	Norfolk	32	9	4	19	200	275	22
9	Bedfordshire	32	9	2	21	202	276	20

Winners: Sunderland