

Essex v Hertfordshire – ECCBA League Fixture 4

Braintree Leisure Centre – Sunday 21st February 2016

Hertfordshire faced a tricky away match against Essex in their 4th fixture of the ECCBA league season. The team chosen to represent Hertfordshire is detailed below;

H1	H2	H3
1. Audrey Joy	1. Thomas Ellis	1. Dave Smith
2. Gill Barraclough	2. Andy Cobbold	2. Roy Harden
3. Jackie Harden	3. Paul Harris	3. Jonathan Carter
4. Margaret Forrest	4. David Danby	4. Pete Cook
H4	H5	H6
1. Mary Cobbold	1. Shirley Davidson	1. Ron Hart
2. Ian Carter	2. Mick Cook	2. Jacqui Harris
3. Marilyn Cook	3. Jack Smalley	3. Ben Summerfield
4. Jason Ellis	4. Craig Hearn	4. Rebecca Hearn

Session 1

It was the odd numbered teams who would play first. H1 made a great start and whilst not running away with the game always looked comfortable and eased to an 11-3 win. H3 fell behind early but some strong middle ends put them 11-6 in front going into the final end. The last end was just about making sure they didn't drop a big count which they were able to do winning 11-8. H5 were always behind in their game and looked like they were going to struggle to get anything out of it. A battling performance though always kept them within touching distance and they managed to secure a 9-8 win. The perfect start to the day with three wins.

Session Result Essex 0-6 Hertfordshire

Match Score Essex 0-6 Hertfordshire

Session 2

Could the even numbered teams now build on that great start. H2 played a controlled match and whilst not scoring heavily always managed to maintain a healthy advantage and went on to win 11-5. H4 got off to a good start and built an early lead. Their opponents battled back but just ran out of ends as H4 held on for a 7-5 win. H6 made a great state to their match picking up four shots on the first end. That was as good as it got though as their opponents dominated the match after that and won the match by an emphatic 22-5. Another good session for us as we built a 10-2 lead.

Session Result Essex 2-4 Hertfordshire

Match Score Essex 2-10 Hertfordshire

Session 3

Could the odd numbered teams all build on their wins from the first session? H3 were able to, again playing some consistent bowls they always held a lead over their opponents and managed to secure a 12-7 win. H5 were not able to repeat their victory from the first session as they fell to a narrow 7-5 loss. H1 were also unable to repeat their win from the first session as their opponents played the more consistent bowls winning 9-4. Despite losing the session 4-2 we still held a healthy 12-6 match lead.

Session Result Essex 4-2 Hertfordshire

Match Score Essex 6-12 Hertfordshire

Session 4

This would be a very important session, if we were able to win it we would be close to winning the match with two sessions to play where we could then look to build a big winning margin. However, it turned out to be our worst session of the day. None of the teams never really looked like getting anything from their games as H6 lost 9-5, H2 lost 9-4 and H4 fell to an 11-3 loss. After building a 10-2 lead Essex had played well and now pegged us back to 12-12. An improved performance would be needed in the final two sessions.

Session Result Essex 6-0 Hertfordshire

Match Score Essex 12-12 Hertfordshire

Session 5

If we were to win the game we would need a positive result from this session. All three games were incredibly close and looked like they could go either way, not just up to the final ends but to the final bowls. H3 looking for their third win of the day started slowly and found themselves 5-0 down after two ends. Some consistent bowling through the middle ends turned that 5-0 deficit into a 9-8 lead playing the final end. Holding the match the Essex skip played a good wood to take shot and ear a deserved 9-9 draw. H5 were also involved in a very tight game, a couple of fantastic bowls from their skip in the latter ends of the game was enough to earn a 8-7 win. H1 were also involved in a very tight game but also managed to just do enough to secure a 9-8 win. Three incredibly tight games, but our teams showed good character to respond from the 6-0 loss in the fourth session to win the session 5-1 and open up a 17-13 lead

Session Result Essex 1-5 Hertfordshire

Match Score Essex 13-17 Hertfordshire

Session 6

The final session of the day and two points were needed to secure an overall match win. We had been in a winning position going into the final session against both Cambridgeshire and Suffolk and failed to covert. It was vital that we managed to secure the match win this time. H6 looking for their first win of the day unfortunately never looked like doing so as they suffered a 15-1 loss. H2 had played well throughout the game and took an advantage into the final end. Unfortunately a poor final end meant they were unable to take shot and the game was lost 7-6. It was left to H4 to try and

secure the two points needed. The scoreline was not emphatic but they always looked in control of their match and managed to secure a 8-5 win.

Session Result Essex 4-2 Hertfordshire

Match Score Essex 17-19 Hertfordshire

The final score was a narrow 19-17 win for Hertfordshire. A score that we would have likely have taken at the start of the day. However, after building a 10-2 lead we should be disappointed to only just have won the match. Credit to Essex for battling back and in the end they may feel that they had done enough to deserve at least a draw from the match. Building a lead only to squander it is becoming an all too familiar feeling for us this season. We need to start believing how good we are now and start to build more of a winning mentality. The result leaves us in 5th place. However, 2nd – 5th are separated by just two points. Our final game of the season is it home to an improved Bedfordshire team who have had some good results themselves this season. A win could see us finish as runners up again with Cambridgeshire and Norfolk playing each other and Essex away to Suffolk.

Match Result Essex 17 (154) – 19 (128) Hertfordshire

The performances of the teams on the day are detailed below;

	W	D	L	SF	SA	Pts
H1	2	0	1	24	20	4
H2	1	0	2	21	21	2
H3	2	1	0	32	24	5
H4	2	0	1	18	21	4
H5	2	0	1	22	22	4
H6	0	0	3	11	46	0
Total	9	1	8	128	154	19