

ECCBA League Fixture 3

Essex v Hertfordshire

Salings Millennium Hall – Sunday 4th February 2018

Our third ECCBA league fixture of the season was the rearranged (due to snow) away fixture, at a new venue, against Essex. A good performance would be needed to come away with a positive result. The team chose to represent Hertfordshire was as follows;

H1	H2	H3
1. Mary Grethe 2. Paul Harris 3. Jack Smalley 4. Jason Ellis	1. Thomas Ellis 2. Andy Cobbold 3. Sandra Gammage 4. David Danby	1. Harry Wilson 2. Jacqui Harris 3. Roy Grethe 4. Pete Cook
H4	H5	H6
1. Marilyn Cook 2. Kate Summerfield 3. Ben Summerfield 4. Neil Tuckey	1. Ron Hart 2. Gill Barraclough 3. Dave Smith 4. Margaret Forrest	1. Stuart Palmer 2. Mick Cook 3. Rebecca Hearn 4. Craig Hearn

During the day the odd numbered teams would play at the same time and the even numbered teams would play at the same time.

Session 1

It would be the odd numbered teams to play first. Getting used to the new venue and carpets would be essential in order to try and build some early momentum. That was not to be the case for H1 and H5 who both fell behind early. H1 got back to within a couple of shots around the midpoint of the game but their opponents pulled away to win 13-5. H5 never really got going and their opponents played some good consistent bowls to take a deserved 10-2 win. H3 started well and opened up an early lead. It was a lead that they held throughout the game and defended a four shot lead on the final end by just dropping a couple of shots and taking an important 10-8 win.

Session Score
Essex 4-2 Herts

Match Score
Essex 4-2 Herts

Session 2

It was not the even numbered teams to take to the mats. Having the advantage of watching the first session they started a little better. H2 were involved in a tight game but just did enough to get over the line and take a 9-7 win. H4 were also involved in a very close game with the score locked at 6-6 on the final end. The jack had been moved to the end of the carpet and on the wind swinging hand Neil (Herts skip) played a great shot to take a single and the match 7-6. H6 were unable to make it three wins from three. They were always behind in their match and fell to a 10-6 loss.

Session Score
Essex 2-4 Herts

Match Score
Essex 6-6 Herts

Session 3

H3 looking to repeat their win from the opening session started well and opened up a 7-2 lead. That was cut to 7-5 playing the 8th end. The Essex skip trailed the jack to the end of the carpet to hold 4 shots. However, Pete (Herts skip) drew in with his final word to take shot and an 8-5 lead. That was defended on the final end and a 9-5 win was secured. H5, who struggled in their first game, struggled again. Their opponents were playing the more consistent bowls and won the match 9-2. H1 responded well from defeat in their opening game as they come out on top with an 11-7 win. The two wins in this session put us in front in the overall match for the first time at 10-8.

Session Score
Essex 2-4 Herts

Match Score
Essex 8-10 Herts

Session 4

This never looked like being a great session for us as H2 and H6 fell behind early. Neither team were able to make much of a dent into their opponents leads and it resulted in defeats of 12-5 (H2) and 11-5 (H6). H4, confident from the win in the first session, played a good game and managed to avoid a whitewash session as they ground out an 8-7 win.

Session Score
Essex 4-2 Herts

Match Score
Essex 12-12 Herts

Session 5

This would be an important session in determining the overall winner of the match. H3 looking for their third win of the day were not playing as well as in their previous two matches. They kept in the game and trailed 7-4 playing the final end. They were unable to pick up the three shots they needed for a draw and the match as lost 9-4. H1 had fallen behind early in their match, but a big count on one of the middle ends got them back in to the game. They largely controlled the remainder of the match and were able to secure a 9-6 win. H5 were finally starting to show some of the form we know they are capable of. They built an early lead which they were able to hang on to and took an important 8-6 win.

Session Score
Essex 2-4 Herts

Match Score
Essex 14-16 Herts

Session 6

Three points in the final session of the day would be enough to secure the win. Whilst three wins in the final session would take us to the top of the table. Two of the games never looked in doubt as H4 & H6 both built up good leads. H4 last the last couple of ends of their game but secured a 14-7 win. H6 secured our biggest win of the day with a good 15-3 victory. The final match involving H2 was a lot closer. They managed to play the better bowls over the final ends and secure an important 9-3 win.

Session Score
Essex 0-6 Herts

Match Result
Essex 14-22 Herts

A fantastic final two sessions were we took 10/12 points on offer was enough to secure a great away win and take us to the top of the table. All teams contributed towards the points total with special mention to H4 who won all three games. The result probably flattered us a little as Essex actually scored more shots (139-138). We managed to battle hard and win a lot of the close games.

The individual team performances are displayed below

Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	SF	SA	Points
H1	3	2	0	1	25	26	4
H2	3	2	0	1	23	22	4
H3	3	2	0	1	23	22	4
H4	3	3	0	0	29	20	6
H5	3	1	0	2	12	25	2
H6	3	1	0	2	26	24	2
Total	18	11	0	7	138	139	22

The league table is shown below.

League Table

		Pld	W	D	L	SF	SA	Pts
1	Hertfordshire	3	2	0	1	426	406	63
2	Cambridgeshire	3	2	0	1	421	406	62
3	Suffolk	3	3	0	0	451	354	60
4	Essex	3	0	0	3	387	405	47
5	Norfolk	2	1	0	1	251	274	35
6	Bedfordshire	2	0	0	2	238	329	21