

## ECCBA League Game – Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2015

### Ware Drill Hall

Hertfordshire played their third ECCBA league fixture of the season at home to Cambridgeshire on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2015. The team chose to represent Hertfordshire was as follows;

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

#### **Session 1**

The odd number teams were up first for Hertfordshire. H1 made the brightest start as they swept into an early lead; they dropped 5 shots on one end though to fall behind. They managed to recover and played well over the closing ends to seal a 10-7 win. H3 played poorly and were never really in their game. Whilst they never dropped more than two shots on an end they found themselves 9-0 down with two ends to play, they managed to win the last two ends but lost the game 9-2. H5 made a slow start and found themselves 7-1 down and looking like taking a heavy loss. They turned the game around and led 9-7 going in the last end but dropped two shots to tie the game 9-9.

A split session was a decent start for us considering that we possibly looked like losing all three games half way through the session.

#### **Session 2**

The even numbers would now look to try and build on that solid start. H6 always looked in control of their match; they didn't run away with it but secured a 10-4 win. H2 played some solid consistent bowls and they also secured a deserved win 10-5. H4 would now look to complete a clean sweep of wins. They played fantastically at the start of the match and raced away into a 9-0 lead. They controlled the rest of the game from there and led 9-4 going into the last end. The jack was sprung to the end of the carpet on the last end and Cambridgeshire continued to draw counting woods, it looked like a being a disaster but luckily after a measure the count was only 4 and not 5 and a 9-8 win was the outcome.

A fantastic session for us and we had opened up an early 9-3 lead.

#### **Session 3**

All three games were tight in the early ends. H3 were out bowled in the early ends but kept managing to get crucial woods in the head and opened up an early lead. It was a lead that they maintained and they bounced back from their opening session defeat with a 10-4 win. It was a different story for H1

and H5, whilst they were always within touching distance of their opponents they never got close enough to put in a real challenge. H1 suffered a 10-4 defeat and H5 lost 9-4.

A lost session (first one of the season) 4-2 meant our lead had been cut to 11-7. A big session coming up now which would go a long way to deciding the overall result.

#### **Session 4**

H4 fell behind early but had good ends through 3-5 to build a slight advantage. They were unable to maintain it though and ended up with a 12-8 defeat. H6 built an early advantage but their opponents continued to chip away at it. Leading by a single shot going into the last end we were unable to defend it although only a single was dropped and a 10-10 draw was secured (first dropped league point of the season for H6). The game for H2 was now vital as then needed to avoid defeat to maintain our overall lead. The game was locked at 6-6 going into the last end, a very tight close last end saw Cambs holding the one shot they needed and blocking us out. The H2 skip was unable to alter the end and the game was lost 7-6.

A disappointing 5-1 session defeat meant that our lead had now been completely wiped out and the match was tied at 12-12.

#### **Session 5**

H3 were involved in a see-saw game that saw them take an early lead then fall behind and then re-establish a 10-7 lead going into the final end. A very poor last end saw H3 five shots down as the skip come to bowl; disaster was avoided though with two good draw shots to take the end and the match with a 12-7 win. Similar to the previous session H5 & H1 were both involved in tight games but they could never quite take control and always seemed to be chasing the match a little. H5 ended up with a 9-5 defeat and H1 lost their game 8-5.

A third straight session loss now meant that we trailed for the first time on the day 16-14. A 5-1 final session win was needed to secure an overall victory and to maintain our winning start to the season.

#### **Session 6**

H6 maintained their good form and there only ever looked like being one winner as they secured an 11-3 win. H2 opened up an early 5-2 lead; they dropped 4 shots on a single end though to fall behind. Then never recovered from that and fell to a 12-6 loss. H4 were bowling well and led 7-4 going into the final end where a win for them would secure us an overall draw. The opposition skip played a good first wood and the H4 skip could not get into the head to alter it and the final result was a 7-7 draw. A split final session at least stopped the losing session streak but was not enough to prevent an overall defeat.

The final score was 17 (138) – 19 (140), another good performance from the team but unfortunately our first defeat of the season. I think it goes to show how far the team has come along in a short space of time that there seemed to be genuine disappointment about the final result. In previous seasons scoring 17 points against Cambridgeshire would have been a great result for us. What it does do is maintain our lead over the other teams and we are in a good position to finish in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. We now trail Suffolk by 9 points and realistically will need to beat them away from home to have any hope of winning the league. This is a very big ask, and would have been unthinkable at the start of the

season. The whole team should be very proud of their efforts so far this season and should not be disheartened by this result. We know need to go to Suffolk and show them what a good team we are.

The individual team performances are detailed below. Every team managed to pick up at least one point. Special mention to H6 who were unbeaten. The draw in their 2<sup>nd</sup> game is the only league point they have dropped so far this season.

	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>SF</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>Pts</b>
H1	1	0	2	19	25	2
H2	1	0	2	22	24	2
H3	2	0	1	24	20	4
H4	1	1	1	24	27	3
H5	0	1	2	18	27	1
H6	2	1	0	31	17	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>17</b>