

## ECCBA League Game – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2015

### Hertfordshire v Essex

#### Ware Drill Hall

Hertfordshire played their fifth and final ECCBA league fixture of the season at home to Essex on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2015. At the start of the day we sat in 2<sup>nd</sup> place and needed 11 points to finish on 100 for the season and to guarantee finishing above Essex. That total would also mean that Cambridgeshire would need to win away from home to champions elect Suffolk.

The team chose to represent Hertfordshire was as follows;

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

#### **Session 1**

It was the odd numbers up first looking to get us off to a good start. H3 made a poor start and did not get on the scoreboard till late in the game, they ran out of ends to form any kind of comeback and were well beaten 10-3. H5 looked reasonably in control of their game but some loose middle-late ends looked like they were going to possibly let their opponents back into the game. A good shot from the H5 skip on the last and managed to secure the crucial shot and with it a 10-8 win. H1 were involved in a close game but always seemed to be chasing their opponents a little bit. They were never able to get themselves into a winning position and the game slipped away from them with an 8-4 loss. A 4-2 loss in the first session, not an ideal start but something to build on.

#### **Session 2**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> session saw all three Herts. teams start positively. H4 were first to secure victory, in a topsy-turvy game they just managed to get the better of their opponents and come away with a 12-9 win. H2 followed that up with another good victory getting the better of their opponents with a 13-8 victory. H6 were unable to make it a clean sweep of wins as they lost out on a measure on the final end and lost the game 6-7. Still two wins from the session levelled the score at 6-6. A trend had been set for the day where the even numbered teams made up ground lost by the odd numbered teams.

### **Session 3**

H3 made a good start to their match and looked in control when they built an 8-2 lead. However, a terrible 6<sup>th</sup> end saw them drop six shots and the match was suddenly level at 8-8. They managed to quickly regain their composure and took two singles on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> ends to lead 10-8. They controlled the last end reasonably well to just drop a single and escape with a 10-9 win. H5 were never in their match and were well beaten by their consistent opponents, the game was lost 15-5. H1 were involved in another close match but similar to the first game they were unable to get the better of their opponents and a couple of poor ends cost them and they lost 10-8. At the halfway stage Essex held a 10-8 lead. Whilst we were still in the match we would need to improve in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the day to take anything off of a good Essex team.

### **Session 4**

A fantastic session for us as we managed to come out on top in three very close games. H2 secured back to back wins with a good 9-7 win. H6 responded well to losing a close first match as they won a close second match taking victory 8-7. Most impressive of all was H4 who fell behind early and trailed 7-2. They never panicked and slowly got themselves back in the game. They managed to not drop another shot and turned their match around with a 10-7 win. A 6-0 session win meant we now took a 14-10 lead in the match. More importantly we had secured the all important 11 points meaning Essex could not finish above us and we had reached three figures for the first time ever in a league campaign.

### **Session 5**

The penultimate session of the day started fantastically for H3 as they picked up four shots on the first end, however they did not pick up another shot till the final end as their opponents completely out bowled them and they did not help themselves with some poor bowling and lost the game 14-5. It was complete role reversal for H1 who started poorly and found themselves behind in their match. They showed good character though to turn the game around, especially after losing their first two matches and won the match 9-8. H5 were involved in a very close match but were unable to get the better of their opponents and the match was lost 6-4. Going into the final session we led 16-14, therefore two points required for a draw and three points for a win.

### **Session 6**

The final session saw H6 control their match from start to finish and secured a 10-1 and with it guaranteed at least a draw. Unfortunately H2 and H4 never looked like securing any further points and they were well beaten 14-4 and 8-2 respectively.

The final result was an 18(132) – 18(156) draw. A good game and a fair result between two evenly matched sides. The result meant that a runners up place had been secured and we finished with 107 points, 21 more than our previous best of 86 (set in the season before – 2013/2014). A fantastic effort from all the squad and we had exceeded our expectations. Congratulations to Suffolk who were once again the stand out team and won the league for the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive season.

Each teams performance on the day is shown below.

	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>SF</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>Pts</b>
H1	1	0	2	21	26	2
H2	2	0	1	26	29	4
H3	1	0	2	18	33	2
H4	2	0	1	24	24	4
H5	1	0	2	19	29	2
H6	2	0	1	24	15	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>18</b>