

ECCBA Champion of Champions

Needham Market Community Centre, Suffolk – Sunday 10th May 2015

This event sees the winners of the county titles from each county play against each other to become Eastern Counties Champion of Champions.

The following players represented Hertfordshire;

Singles: Pete Cook

Pairs: Rebecca Hearn & Craig Hearn

Triples: Ian Carter, Jonathon Carter & David Danby

Fours: Jackie Harden, Peter English, Roy Harden & Annette Luedtke

Fours

Session 1

Herts. started their day with a tough looking match against an experienced looking Essex team. They managed to build an early lead and rather than defend it they actually increased it as they went on. They managed to get off to the perfect start and secured a very impressive 13-3 win. That win took them to the top of the table as they had scored one more shot than Cambridgeshire.

Position	Name	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	SF	SA	Shot Diff	Points
1st	Hertfordshire	1	1	0	0	13	3	10	2
2nd	Cambridgeshire	1	1	0	0	12	7	5	2
3rd	Suffolk	1	1	0	0	11	8	3	2
4th	Norfolk	1	0	0	1	8	11	-3	0
5th	Bedfordshire	1	0	0	1	7	12	-5	0
6th	Essex	1	0	0	1	3	13	-10	0

Session 2

Next up were on paper one of the favourites for the completion in Suffolk. Despite not playing poorly they were never really able to get into the game and their experienced opponents gradually built a lead and moved away from them. The match ended in the same score as their first match, unfortunately this time it was a 13-3 defeat.

That win for Suffolk took them on to 4 points. They were just behind Cambridgeshire who jumped to the top with a thumping 19-1 win over Bedfordshire.

Position	Name	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	SF	SA	Shot Diff	Points
1st	Cambridgeshire	2	2	0	0	31	8	23	4
2nd	Suffolk	2	2	0	0	24	11	13	4
3rd	Hertfordshire	2	1	0	1	16	16	0	2
4th	Norfolk	2	1	0	1	15	15	0	2
5th	Bedfordshire	2	0	0	2	11	19	-8	0
6th	Essex	2	0	0	2	4	32	-28	0

Session 3

Norfolk were the next opponents as the Herts. four would try to bounce back from their defeat in the previous session. A good team performance saw them build an early lead, although their opponents got close to them it was a lead that was always maintained and an 11-7 win was secured.

That win kept them within touching distance of the top two. Suffolk won the all important match against Cambs. to open up a two point advantage at the top of the table.

Position	Name	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	SF	SA	Shot Diff	Points
1st	Suffolk	3	3	0	0	30	15	15	6
2nd	Cambridgeshire	3	2	0	1	35	14	21	4
3rd	Hertfordshire	3	2	0	1	27	23	4	4
4th	Norfolk	3	1	0	2	22	26	-4	2
5th	Bedfordshire	3	0	1	2	18	26	-8	1
6th	Essex	3	0	1	2	11	39	-28	1

Session 4

The penultimate game for Herts. would be against Bedfordshire. A win was needed to keep alive any hopes of taking the title. The game was very close and always looked like coming down to the final end. The scores were locked at 7-7, a good final end by the Herts. team secured two shots and a vital 9-7 victory.

The two teams above them also continued their winning form and secured victories. Going into the final round of games Suffolk held a two point advantage. If they were to slip up in their final match then our team could still take the title if they managed to beat Cambridgeshire and also score four more shots than Suffolk.

Position	Name	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	SF	SA	Shot Diff	Points
1st	Suffolk	4	4	0	0	39	21	18	8
2nd	Cambridgeshire	4	3	0	1	54	16	38	6
3rd	Hertfordshire	4	3	0	1	36	30	6	6
4th	Norfolk	4	1	0	3	24	45	-21	2
5th	Bedfordshire	4	0	1	3	25	35	-10	1
6th	Essex	4	0	1	3	17	48	-31	1

Session 5

The experienced and high quality Cambridgeshire team started strongly and applied pressure from the beginning. The Herts. team although not bowling badly could not get themselves into position to win enough ends. They eventually fell to a 13-2 defeat.

The win for Cambridgeshire was enough to secure 2nd place but not the title. Suffolk held their nerve and never really looked like they were in any trouble as they won their match 11-3 against Bedfordshire and secured the title.

The final league table is shown below. A good effort from the Hertfordshire team and it was a credit to them that they entered the final round of games still in with a chance of securing the title. It was only two very good, experienced teams that finished above them. Their six points were a vital contribution towards the team total.

Position	Name	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	SF	SA	Shot Diff	Points
1st	Suffolk	5	5	0	0	50	24	26	10
2nd	Cambridgeshire	5	4	0	1	67	18	49	8
3rd	Hertfordshire	5	3	0	2	38	43	-5	6
4th	Norfolk	5	2	0	3	36	53	-17	4
5th	Bedfordshire	5	0	1	4	28	46	-18	1
6th	Essex	5	0	1	4	25	60	-35	1

Winners : Pete Runnacles, Rita Runnacles, Sam Runnacles & Tom Runnacles (Suffolk)

Triples

Session 1

First up for the triples was a match against Essex. The team did not start well and fell behind early, despite a spirited effort in the latter ends of the match they were never able to recover after the slow start that they made. They eventually lost the match 11-6. Not an ideal start but with arguably the pre tournament favourites (Suffolk) also losing there was still plenty of time to recover.

Position	Name	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	SF	SA	Shot Diff	Points
1st	Essex	1	1	0	0	11	6	5	2
2nd	Bedfordshire	1	1	0	0	10	3	7	2
3rd	Norfolk	1	1	0	0	7	5	2	2
4th	Hertfordshire	1	0	0	1	6	11	-5	0
5th	Suffolk	1	0	0	1	5	7	-2	0
6th	Cambridgeshire	1	0	0	1	3	10	-7	0

Session 2

The next opponents were the strong looking Suffolk team. A tight, tense affair that also looked like it would come down to small margins. Trailing 6-5 going into the final end, the team played some great bowls to hold match lie. The Suffolk skip was unable to get the shot he needed and in trying to do so turned another bowl into the head. Three shots secured and with it a 8-6 win. The result got them right back in contention with only Norfolk on maximum points from their first two games.

Position	Name	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	SF	SA	Shot Diff	Points
1st	Norfolk	2	2	0	0	18	9	9	4
2nd	Essex	2	1	0	1	16	15	1	2
3rd	Bedfordshire	2	1	0	1	14	14	0	2

4th	Hertfordshire	2	1	0	1	14	17	-3	2
5th	Cambridgeshire	2	1	0	1	12	15	-3	2
6th	Suffolk	2	0	0	2	11	15	-4	0

Session 3

A vitally important match for the boys as they faced the early leaders Norfolk. A win would put them joint top with just two fixtures left to play. However, a win never looked too likely as they trailed from the start and were never able to get closer enough to their opponents to worry them too much. The final score was an 11-5 defeat which would likely put an end to their hopes of winning the title.

Norfolk maintained their two point advantage over Cambs. and Beds.

Position	Name	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	SF	SA	Shot Diff	Points
1st	Norfolk	3	3	0	0	29	14	15	6
2nd	Bedfordshire	3	2	0	1	26	21	5	4
3rd	Cambridgeshire	3	2	0	1	21	23	-2	4
4th	Essex	3	1	0	2	23	27	-4	2
5th	Hertfordshire	3	1	0	2	19	28	-9	2
6th	Suffolk	3	0	0	3	19	24	-5	0

Session 4

Next up was a game against title chasing Bedfordshire. A more encouraging start saw the team open up an early advantage. Unfortunately some loose ends in the middle of the match saw that advantage squandered and they eventually lost the game 9-6

Cambridgeshire inflicted a first defeat of the day on Norfolk and suddenly they were three teams in the running for the title. Only 2 shots separated them all.

Position	Name	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	SF	SA	Shot Diff	Points
1st	Bedfordshire	4	3	0	1	35	27	8	6
2nd	Norfolk	4	3	0	1	33	26	7	6
3rd	Cambridgeshire	4	3	0	1	33	27	6	6
4th	Suffolk	4	1	0	3	31	26	5	2
5th	Hertfordshire	4	1	0	3	25	37	-12	2
6th	Essex	4	1	0	3	25	39	-14	2

Session 5

Rather bizarrely none of the leading three teams were due to play each other in the final session. Our team faced Cambridgeshire and were now just playing for pride and attempting to stop them winning the title. In an amazing finish to the day Norfolk the early leaders lost their match against Essex and looked like losing the chance of the title too. Our triple arguably saved their best performance till last as they won 8-5 and looked like ending Cambs. hopes of the title. It was left to Beds. to see if they would be the only team to win and take the title. They were last to finish and the

game was already lost heading into the final end, however their hopes of the title were not. They only needed to secure two shots on the final end to win the title. They were unable to do so and lost the match 14-5.

In a crazy finish to the tournament, Norfolk secured the title by just one shot. Although our team finished in 6th place they were only two points from taking the title! This will hopefully give them confidence for the nationals that despite not playing their best the competition looks like it could be very open.

Position	Name	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	SF	SA	Shot Diff	Points
1st	Norfolk	5	3	0	2	41	36	5	6
2nd	Bedfordshire	5	3	0	2	40	41	-1	6
3rd	Cambridgeshire	5	3	0	2	38	35	3	6
4th	Suffolk	5	2	0	3	45	31	14	4
5th	Essex	5	2	0	3	35	47	-12	4
6th	Hertfordshire	5	2	0	3	33	42	-9	4

Winners: Mike Bond, Val Bond and Mick Fisher

Pairs

Craig & Rebecca Started fantastically well in the competition and won their first three matches. Unfortunately Craig was taken ill and they had to withdraw.

The final league table is shown below

Position	Name	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	SF	SA	Shot Diff	Points
1st	Suffolk	4	4	0	0	34	22	12	8
2nd	Norfolk	4	2	0	2	39	28	11	4
3rd	Bedfordshire	4	2	0	2	24	32	-8	4
4th	Cambridgeshire	4	1	0	3	26	33	-7	2
5th	Essex	4	1	0	3	24	32	-8	2

Winners : David O'Brien & Andy Pooley (Suffolk)

Singles

Session 1

Pete started with a match against Norfolk despite trailing 3-0 early on he controlled the game from there on and only dropped more shots on the final end when the game was already won, final score of 11-5.

That early win put Pete to the top of the table after the first fixture

Position	Name	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	SF	SA	Shot Diff	Points
1st	Hertfordshire	1	1	0	0	11	5	6	2
2nd	Cambridgeshire	1	1	0	0	9	4	5	2
3rd	Essex	1	1	0	0	9	8	1	2
4th	Bedfordshire	1	0	0	1	8	9	-1	0
5th	Norfolk	1	0	0	1	5	11	-6	0
6th	Suffolk	1	0	0	1	4	9	-5	0

Session 2

Bedfordshire were the next opponents and a high quality match was played out. The result was in doubt right to the last end as Pete only held a narrow 6-4 advantage. A great final end and three shots were secured and with it a 9-4 victory.

After two games it looked like being a three horse race between Essex, Cambs. and Herts.

Position	Name	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	SF	SA	Shot Diff	Points
1st	Cambridgeshire	2	2	0	0	22	7	15	4
2nd	Hertfordshire	2	2	0	0	20	9	11	4
3rd	Essex	2	2	0	0	19	14	5	4
4th	Bedfordshire	2	0	0	2	12	18	-6	0
5th	Suffolk	2	0	0	2	10	19	-9	0
6th	Norfolk	2	0	0	2	8	24	-16	0

Session 3

The 3rd session saw the first clash of the title contenders with Pete playing Cambs. He fell behind 3-0 early on but managed to pick up three shots to pull himself level. The match remained close throughout but Pete secured a narrow 6-5 advantage going into the final end. He was able to protect his lead and picked up the one shot he needed for a 7-5 win. The Essex player also maintained his 100% record and they were both now two points clear of the Cambs. bowler.

Position	Name	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	SF	SA	Shot Diff	Points
1st	Essex	3	3	0	0	29	19	10	6
2nd	Hertfordshire	3	3	0	0	27	14	13	6
3rd	Cambridgeshire	3	2	0	1	27	14	13	4
4th	Suffolk	3	1	0	2	20	26	-6	2
5th	Bedfordshire	3	0	0	3	19	28	-9	0
6th	Norfolk	3	0	0	3	13	34	-21	0

Session 4

A vital match for Pete has he faced the Essex bowler who was level at the top of the table with him. He made quite a slow start and fell behind early. He managed to battle back though and trailed 6-5 with two ends to play. The Essex bowler played a good 8th end and in attempting to spring the jack to the back of the carpet the jack was knocked off to make the score 8-5 with an end to play. Needing three on the final end Pete was unable to get them dropping one shot and losing the game 9-5.

Title hopes were not yet quite over. Pete would need the Essex bowler to lose to Cambs. whilst at the same time defeating the Suffolk bowler (and scoring six or more shots in the process)

Position	Name	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	SF	SA	Shot Diff	Points
1st	Essex	4	4	0	0	38	24	14	8
2nd	Hertfordshire	4	3	0	1	32	23	9	6
3rd	Cambridgeshire	4	2	0	2	33	21	12	4
4th	Suffolk	4	2	0	2	31	32	-1	4
5th	Bedfordshire	4	1	0	3	26	34	-8	2
6th	Norfolk	4	0	0	4	19	45	-26	0

Session 5

Pete started slowly and his opponent got the better of the opening stages. However, things were looking positive on the over mat as the Essex bowler trailed 7-0. As Pete started to fight back and establish a lead on his carpet the Essex bowler was doing the same as he had pulled his game back to 7-7 going into the last end. He was unable to complete the comeback as Cambs. took a single on the last end and with it the match 8-7. Pete know that he now needed to win and score 13 shots to take the title. He led 8-5 and held two shots on the 8th end meaning he would need three shots on the final end. Unfortunately the Suffolk bowler with his last bowl flicked off of a short wood and fell in to take shot meaning Pete led 80-6 going into the final end. With hopes of the title now gone he just had to concentrate on winning the match and he done just that taking two shots to win 10-6

The final table is shown below, a 2nd place finish and agonisingly just three shots short of taking the title.

Position	Name	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	SF	SA	Shot Diff	Points
1st	Essex	5	4	0	1	45	32	13	8
2nd	Hertfordshire	5	4	0	1	42	29	13	8
3rd	Cambridgeshire	5	3	0	2	41	28	13	6
4th	Suffolk	5	2	0	3	37	42	-5	4
5th	Bedfordshire	5	1	0	4	30	45	-15	2
6th	Norfolk	5	1	0	4	30	49	-19	2

Winner Trevor Holbrow (Essex)

Team Event

The final team event table is shown below. Despite not having any pairs contribution due to Rebecca & Craig's withdrawal the team still finished in 3rd place. A great achievement.

Craig and Rebecca had already secured six points (which are not included in the total below) therefore we would have at least been second and they would have had two more games to play were a win or two would have been enough to secure the team title.

Position	Name	SF	SA	Shot Diff	Points
1st	Suffolk	166	119	47	26
2nd	Cambridgeshire	172	114	58	22
3rd	Hertfordshire	113	114	-1	18
4th	Norfolk	146	166	-20	16
5th	Essex	129	171	-42	15
6th	Bedfordshire	122	164	-42	13

Winners : Suffolk