

## **ECCBA Champion of Champions**

**Braintree Leisure Centre, Essex – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> 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: Jack Smalley

Pairs: Roy Harden & Jackie Harden

Triples: Marilyn Cook, Mick Cook & Pete Cook

Fours: Ron Hart, Rebecca Hearn, Craig Hearn & Jason Ellis

### **Fours**

#### **Session 1**

Our four started their day with a tough looking match against Suffolk. In a close game it always looked like coming down to the final end. We trailed 7-5 going into the final end but a great last end and three shots were secured to seal a narrow 8-7 win.

#### **Session 2**

An experienced Norfolk team were the next opposition. A poor start and our four found themselves 7-0 after the first few ends. They fought hard to get back into the game but gradually ran out of ends and fell to an 11-8 defeat.

#### **Session 3**

Bedfordshire were the next opponents. Another tight game and our team were unable to shake off their opponents. They did however manage to do enough to win the match and secure a 9-6 victory.

#### **Session 4**

A high quality Cambridgeshire team were the next opponents. Despite them not having the best of days it was another very close game that come down to the final end. Six shots on the final end made the final score of 13-7 look much more comfortable than it actually was. Their third win out of four games left them in a strong position to take the title with six points. Suffolk and Norfolk both also had six points from their four games and would play each other in the final session. Our fours needed to win their match and hopefully secure lots of shots and would need to hope that the Suffolk-Norfolk match was a low scoring affair.

#### **Session 5**

As all of the previous matches had been, this was another close one. The team secured their much needed victory but were only able to score eight shots in an 8-4 win. To win the title they would likely need the match between the other two leaders to finish in a draw. However, Suffolk scored big on the early ends and pulled away from their opponents and secured an impressive 17-3 win and with it the title.

The final table is shown below. Our team finished as runners up on 8 points, 11 shots behind the winners Suffolk

		Beds	Cambs	Essex	Hets	Norfolk	Suffolk	Pld	Pts	F	A	
<b>Fours</b>	<b>Bedfordshire</b>		11-2	8-7	6-9	4-12	4-15	5	4	33	45	4th
	<b>Cambridgeshire</b>	2-11		5-10	7-13	14-9	5-9	5	2	33	52	5th
	<b>Essex</b>	7-8	10-5		4-8	5-12	6-9	5	2	32	42	6th
	<b>Hertfordshire</b>	9-6	13-7	8-4		8-11	8-7	5	8	46	35	2nd
	<b>Norfolk</b>	12-4	9-14	12-5	11-8		3-17	5	6	47	48	3rd
	<b>Suffolk</b>	15-4	9-5	9-6	7-8	17-3		5	8	57	26	1st

**Winners : Suffolk – Shirley Watkins, Sam Runnacles, Tom Runnacles & Mick Watkins**

### Triples

#### **Session 1**

The triples started with a match against Suffolk. In a topsy turvy game our team trailed 7-2 and then led 9-7 before falling 11-9 behind on the final end. Two shots were secured and with it an 11-11 draw.

#### **Session 2**

Norfolk was the next opposition. Our team never really got into the game and were well beaten 13-5

#### **Session 3**

The triples first win was secured in this session with a good 10-6 win over Bedfordshire. This victory moved them off of the bottom of the table up into 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

#### **Session 4**

Second placed Cambridgeshire were the next opponents. To retain any hopes of winning the title a win was vital. In a game that was pretty much controlled from start to finish a 13-6 win was secured. This result (and Suffolk losing to Bedfordshire) meant that our triple led going into the final game. They were level on points with Suffolk and had a slender two shot advantage.

#### **Session 5**

Anyone of four teams was in with a chance of winning coming into the final session. Our triple had to win their game and had to make sure that they pretty much matched the shots scored by Suffolk. A poor start to the game and they trailed 5-0 after three ends. However, a five shot count on the 4<sup>th</sup> end brought them level. After that they did not drop another end and won the match 13-5. Suffolk were involved in a tight game with Norfolk but were beaten 7-5. This meant that our triple had secured the title.

The final table is shown below.

		Beds	Cambs	Essex	Hets	Norfolk	Suffolk	Pld	Pts	F	A	
<b>Triples</b>	<b>Bedfordshire</b>		9-6	6-15	6-10	9-5	10-9	5	6	40	45	2nd
	<b>Cambridgeshire</b>	6-9		10-3	6-13	9-6	4-10	5	4	35	41	6th
	<b>Essex</b>	15-6	3-10		5-13	13-5	4-7	5	4	40	41	4th
	<b>Hertfordshire</b>	10-6	13-6	13-5		5-13	11-11	5	7	52	41	1st
	<b>Norfolk</b>	5-9	6-9	5-13	13-5		7-5	5	4	36	41	5th
	<b>Suffolk</b>	9-10	10-4	7-4	11-11	5-7		5	5	42	36	3rd

**Winners : Hertfordshire – Marilyn Cook, Mick Cook & Pete Cook**

### Pairs

#### **Session 1**

A slow start from our pair in their first match against Bedfordshire saw them fall a long way behind. They managed to claw their way back into the game but just run out of ends as they lost 13-9

#### **Session 2**

Next up was Cambridgeshire. In a very close match that looked like it could go either way right up to the final ends a fitting 6-6 draw was secured.

#### **Session 3**

Essex were the next opponents. In a very similar match to the game in the previous session it was very tight and looked like either team could win. Neither team could manage to secure the win and another draw was secured, this time 8-8.

#### **Session 4**

It was almost like an action replay with another close game against Suffolk in the 4<sup>th</sup> session. This time our pair were unable to earn a point as they were narrowly beaten 8-7.

#### **Session 5**

The final match against Norfolk and a chance to claim a final win. No surprises that it was another close game and this time they just managed to be on the right end of the result with a 9-8.

The final table is shown below. A very respectable 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish which could have been better if those close games had gone Jackie & Roy's way.

		Beds	Cambs	Essex	Hets	Norfolk	Suffolk	Pld	Pts	F	A	
Pairs	Bedfordshire		5-11	5-7	13-9	1-17	5-8	5	2	29	52	6th
	Cambridgeshire	11-5		9-4	6-6	9-4	7-7	5	8	42	26	2nd
	Essex	7-5	4-9		8-8	8-8	6-14	5	4	33	44	4th
	Hertfordshire	9-13	6-6	8-8		9-8	7-8	5	4	39	43	3rd
	Norfolk	17-1	4-9	8-8	8-9		4-10	5	3	41	37	5th
	Suffolk	8-5	7-7	14-6	8-7	10-4		5	9	47	29	1st

**Winners : Peter Fellingham & Colin Fellingham (Suffolk)**

### Singles

#### **Session 1**

Bedfordshire were Jack's first opponent of the competition. A very good start as Jack took an early lead and never looked like relinquishing it as he eased away to a 12-1 win.

#### **Session 2**

Next up was Cambridgeshire and a very tough match against the defending national champion. A tight game, that Jack was just unable to come out on top of as he lost 8-5.

#### **Session 3**

Essex were the next opponents and another tough looking match. Once again it was another close game, however this time Jack did do enough to secure the win as he took the match 9-5.

#### **Session 4**

Suffolk were the next opponents. With the Essex player beating Cambridgeshire Jack knew that a win would put him right back in contention for the title. It was another tight game but again Jack just did enough as he secured a 9-7 win.

#### **Session 5**

Norfolk was supposed to be Jack's final opponent. However, the Norfolk player was feeling unwell so withdrew from the competition. This meant that Jack had now finished his matches and had to sit back and wait. To win the title he needed Suffolk to beat Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire to beat Essex. Bedfordshire done their part as they secured a 10-5 win. The other game was close but Cambridgeshire did just enough to come out on top with an 8-4 win.

The final table is shown below, Jack just missing out by six shots.

		Beds	Cambs	Essex	Hets	Norfolk	Suffolk	Pld	Pts	F	A	
Singles	Bedfordshire		1-20	10-5	1-12	--	6-12	5	2	18	49	5th
	Cambridgeshire	20-1		5-7	8-5	--	8-4	5	6	41	17	1st
	Essex	5-10	7-5		5-9	--	15-4	5	4	32	28	3rd
	Hertfordshire	12-1	5-8	9-5		--	9-7	5	6	35	21	2nd
	Norfolk	--	--	--	--		--	5	0	0	0	
	Suffolk	12-6	4-8	4-15	7-9	--		5	2	27	38	4th

**Winner : Jamie Smith (Cambridgeshire)**

### Team

As it had been at the six counties it was nip and tuck between us and Suffolk for most of the day. Going into the final session we led Suffolk by just three shots. However, due to the Norfolk playing withdrawing we would only be playing one game as opposed to Suffolk's two. The Suffolk singles player lost, meaning it all come down to the pairs. The Suffolk pair were always ahead in their game but their opponents battled back to earn a draw. Our pair went into the final end locked at 8-8, if they could win the end we would take the title. With Jackie's penultimate wood she was able to take shot and with it Hertfordshire's first ever team title!!

The final team table is below

		Pts	F	A	
Team	1st	Hertfordshire	25	172	140
	2nd	Suffolk	24	173	129
	3rd	Cambridgeshire	20	151	136
	4th	Essex	14	137	155
	5th	Bedfordshire	14	120	191
	6th	Norfolk	13	124	126

**Winners : Hertfordshire**