

ECCBA Champion of Champions

Needham Market Community Centre, Suffolk – Sunday 20th May 2018
(Hosted by Bedfordshire)

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: Neil Tuckey

Pairs: Mick Cook & Pete Cook

Triples: Mike Bennett, Roy Grethe & David Danby

Fours: Marilyn Cook, Paul Harris, Jack Smalley & Jason Ellis

Fours

Session 1

Bedfordshire were not represented in the fours. Therefore, our team would not play in the first session.

Session 2

Cambridgeshire were their first opponents. We got off to a strong start and largely controlled the game coming away with a good 13-4.

Session 3

Essex would be the opposition in the 3rd session. In a very similar game to their previous match our team got off to a good start and went one better with a 14-5 win.

Session 4

The penultimate opponents would be Suffolk. Another controlled performance from our four who never looked like doing anything but winning the game, which is what they did 13-6.

Session 5

Ours fours would finish off the day with a match against an experienced Norfolk team. Like our fours they had also won all of their matches. Our fours had scored more shots so a draw would be enough to win the title. Unlike the previous three matches this one, as expected, was a lot closer. Our team had a narrow lead playing the final end. However, the jack was moved near the back of the carpet and when Jason come to bowl his first wood he was championship lie down. He played a great draw to take shot. The Norfolk skip was unable to alter it and Jason had the luxury of not needing to bowl his last wood as they had secured a 10-7 win and took the title with four wins from four.

		Beds	Cambs	Essex	Hets	Norfolk	Suffolk	Pld	Pts	F	A	
Fours	Bedfordshire		--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
	Cambridgeshire	--		4-19	4-13	6-10	12-8	4	2	26	50	4 th
	Essex	--	19-4		5-14	1-11	19-4	4	4	44	33	3 rd
	Hertfordshire	--	13-4	14-5		10-7	13-6	4	8	50	22	1 st
	Norfolk	--	10-6	11-1	7-10		12-11	4	6	40	28	2 nd
	Suffolk	--	8-12	4-19	6-13	11-12		4	0	29	56	5 th

Winners: Marilyn Cook, Paul Harris, Jack Smalley & Jason Ellis (Hertfordshire)

Triples

Session 1

Our triple started their day with a match against Bedfordshire. It was a tight game throughout. David played some very good woods towards the back end of the match, which helped them to edge home 6-5.

Session 2

Cambridgeshire were the next opponents, a tough game expected against one of the favourites on paper. Our team made a solid start and were well in the game up to the middle ends. Unfortunately their opponents just got away from them at the end of the game and the match was lost 9-4.

Session 3

Essex would be the opposition in the 3rd session. A game that I'm sure our team would rather forget. They never got into the match and their opponents largely dominated from start to finish and the match was lost 14-2.

Session 4

The penultimate opponents would be Suffolk, who were the defending champions and had won all of their matches to date. Our team played a great game and only a great shot from the opposing skip on the final end denied them a great win as the match was drawn 7-7.

Session 5

Ours triple would finish off the day with a match against Norfolk. In arguably their strongest performance of the day our team controlled the match throughout and ran away with a 15-2 win.

Our team finished with five points from their five games and finished in 4th place. It was a respectable showing and should give them confidence for the National event.

The final table is shown below.

		Beds	Cams	Essex	Hets	Norfolk	Suffolk	Pld	Pts	F	A	
Triples	Bedfordshire		5-13	10-6	5-6	2-13	6-11	5	2	28	49	6 th
	Cambridgeshire	13-5		9-3	9-4	6-10	5-7	5	6	42	29	2 nd
	Essex	6-10	3-9		14-2	3-12	3-15	5	2	29	48	5 th
	Hertfordshire	6-5	4-9	2-14		15-2	7-7	5	5	34	37	4 th
	Norfolk	13-2	10-6	12-3	2-15		2-15	5	6	39	41	3 rd
	Suffolk	11-6	7-5	15-3	7-7	15-2		5	9	55	23	1 st

Winners: Clint Watling, Sam Runnacles & Tom Runnacles (Suffolk)

Pairs

Session 1

Our pair would start their day with a match against Essex. They started very strong and raced into a 9-1 lead. They did their very best to let their opponents back in dropping three shots on the 7th end and 4 shots on the 8th to lead just 9-8 playing the final end. They managed to pick up a couple on the final end to win the match 11-8

Session 2

Suffolk would be the second round opposition. They come up against opponents who were in great form and were largely outplayed throughout the game. They managed to keep in the game at 8-4 down playing the final end but lost the 8th and 9th ends and the game 12-4.

Session 3

Next up for our pair were Norfolk, who had won both games to date. A win was required to keep themselves in the running. Unfortunately our pair made a slow start and never recovered, losing the game 10-7.

Session 4

The penultimate session would see a match against Bedfordshire. Probably their best performance of the day, they largely controlled the game and come away with a 12-2 win.

Session 5

Our pair complete their day with a game against Cambridgeshire who were looking to win the title. Our pair started slowly and never really improved, going down to a poor 12-3 defeat.

Two wins from their five matches was a disappointing return and resulted in a 5th place finish. A vast improvement would be needed if they were to compete for the Nationals in a couple of weeks' time.

		Beds	Cambs	Essex	Hets	Norfolk	Suffolk	Pld	Pts	F	A	
Pairs	Bedfordshire		3-11	5-12	2-12	3-11	4-12	5	0	17	58	6 th
	Cambridgeshire	11-3		10-11	12-3	9-5	12-3	5	8	54	25	1 st
	Essex	12-5	11-10		8-11	3-15	8-8	5	5	42	19	3 rd
	Hertfordshire	12-2	3-12	11-8		7-10	4-12	5	4	37	44	5 th
	Norfolk	11-3	5-9	15-3	10-7		10-5	5	8	51	27	2 nd
	Suffolk	12-4	3-12	8-8	12-4	5-10		5	5	40	38	4 th

Winners: Barry & Maureen Giddens (Cambridgeshire)

Singles

Session 1

Neil would start his day with a match against Essex. Four dropped shots on the first end was far from the ideal start. However, Neil played well throughout the rest of the match only dropping one further shot and taking a good 12-5 win.

Session 2

Suffolk would be the second round opposition and a tough game was to be expected. The match was tight throughout, Neil managed to edge into a small lead and held on the final end. Unfortunately his opponent had final wood and was able to move the jack to take shot and earn a point with a 6-6 draw.

Session 3

Next up for Neil were Norfolk. Neil played a very game and was fully deserving of his 15-2 win.

Session 4

The penultimate session would see a match against Bedfordshire. Neil made another slow start and allowed his opponent to get in front of him. He tried his best to claw his way back into the game but just ran out of ends and lost the game 6-9.

Session 5

Neil completed his day with a game against Cambridgeshire. A win for Neil would likely be enough to secure him the title. In what was turning into a bit of a theme for the day, Neil made a slow start and let his opponent open an early lead. Neil managed to claw his way back into the game and held championship lie on the final end. Unfortunately, his opponent played a great final bowl to take shot, the match 8-6 and the title.

Neil finished with 7 points and ended up in 3rd position. The table does not really tell the whole story though as he came so close to winning the title.

		Beds	Cams	Essex	Hets	Norfolk	Suffolk	Pld	Pts	F	A	
Singles	Bedfordshire		8-7	2-12	9-6	4-8	6-10	5	4	29	43	5 th
	Cambridgeshire	7-8		11-7	8-6	17-4	9-4	5	8	52	29	1 st
	Essex	12-2	7-11		5-12	10-4	4-11	5	4	38	40	4 th
	Hertfordshire	6-9	6-8	12-5		15-2	6-6	5	5	45	30	3 rd
	Norfolk	8-4	4-17	4-10	2-15		4-9	5	2	22	55	6 th
	Suffolk	10-6	4-9	11-4	6-6	9-4		5	7	40	29	2 nd

Winner: David Folkes (Cambridgeshire)

Team

Having won the team title in the previous two years we were keen to retain our title. We were consistent throughout the day and spent the majority of it towards the top of the table. Going into the final set of matches against Cambridgeshire we had a two point advantage over them and needed to just win either the pairs or singles match. Unfortunately, both matches were lost and with it went the title as Cambridgeshire leapfrogged us to take the win.

		Pts	F	A	
Team	1st	Cambridgeshire	24	174	133
	2nd	Hertfordshire	22	166	133
	3rd	Norfolk	22	152	151
	4th	Suffolk	21	164	146
	5th	Essex	15	153	170
	6th	Bedfordshire	6	74	150

Winners: Cambridgeshire