

ECCBA League Game – Sunday 10th April 2016

Six Counties Championship – Hosted by Norfolk

Braintree Leisure Centre

Hertfordshire travelled to Braintree leisure centre on Sunday 10th April for the final ECCBA competition of the season.

The team chose to represent Hertfordshire was as follows;

H1	H2	H3
1. Ron Hart 2. Ben Summerfield 3. Rebecca Hearn 4. Rob Washbrook	1. Thomas Ellis 2. Andy Cobbold 3. Sandra Gammage 4. David Danby	1. Dave Smith 2. Roy Harden 3. Jonathan Carter 4. Pete Cook
H4	H5	H6
1. Mary Cobbold 2. Ian Carter 3. Marilyn Cook 4. Jason Ellis	1. Jackie Harden 2. Mick Cook 3. Jack Smalley 4. Craig Hearn	1. Shirley Davidson 2. Jim Forrest 3. Vince Tamorro 4. Margaret Forrest

Session 1

H1 – H4 were in action first and were looking to get us off to a good start with four games against Bedfordshire. H2 and H4 got off to good starts in their matches and always looked like taking victory. H2 won their match 11-4 and H4 secured an 11-2 win. H3 were involved in a far tighter match, taking a two shot advantage into the final end they were able to defend it and secure an 8-5 win. H1 were unable to complete a clean sweep of wins as they were always behind in their match and lost 10-4. A positive start with 6/8 points.

Session Score

Herts 6-2 Beds

Match Score

Herts 6-2 Beds

Session 2

H5 & H6 would play their first games of the day and complete the matches against Bedfordshire; H1 & H2 would play their 2nd match against Cambridgeshire. Both games against were tight and look like they could go either way, some consistent bowling throughout the later ends of the game or two vital wins were secured 8-7 (H5) and 9-5 (H6). H1 looking to respond to their opening round defeat did so in style as they comfortably won their match 13-6. It was also an impressive performance by H2 as they followed up their opening round win with an 11-8 success. A great session with 4/4 wins and we were the early leaders

Session Score

Herts 4-0 Beds

Herts 4-0 Cambs

Match Score

Herts. 10-2 Beds

Herts 4-0 Cambs

Session 3

H3,H4,H5 & H6 would complete the set of matches against Cambridgeshire in this session. H4 started very poorly in their match, despite sharing the later ends of the match they were unable to recover and lost 12-5. H3's game was tight throughout but they managed to open up a four shot advantage going into the final end, Cambs attempting to move the jack were unable to do so and a 12-4 win was the result. H6 played some consistent bowls throughout their match and always looked in control as they secured a comfortable 11-4 win. H5 were involved in a tight match and all looked last on the final end as they were in all kinds of trouble, a great last wood from their skip rescued a win from the jaws of defeat and an 8-6 win was secured. Another great session with 3/4. Wins, we had maintained our lead at the top and had secured an impressive 20 / 24 points.

Session Score

Herts 6-2 Cambs

Match Score

Herts 10-2 Cambs

Session 4

H1,H2 & H3 play three matches against the hosts Norfolk in this session. This looked like it could be a crucial session as all three games were very close. H1 who trailed 7-2 at one point recovered brilliantly to win their match 15-7. H3 trailed 6-5 in their match going into the final end a good final wood by their skip trailed the jack to the end of the carpet to hold three, the Norfolk skip cut one shot out but the match was won 7-6. The final match was tight throughout and a great three shot count on the final end rescued a 7-7 draw. 5/6. Points from the session was a fantastic result when at one stage it looked like all three games could be lost.

Session Score

Herts 5-1 Norfolk

Match Score

Herts 5-1 Norfolk

Session 5

The games against Norfolk were completed in session 5 as H4,H5 & H6 were in action. Once again all three games were close and looked like they could go either way. Going into the last end all three teams had eared a small lead and it looked like it could be another great session for us. H4 took a narrow 6-5 lead into the last end, one down on the end they were unable to take shot and to make matters worse the Norfolk skip drew in with her last bowl to win the match 7-6. H5 led 9-7 going into the final end, unfortunately the jack was moved to a tricky position and we were unable to cut down the two shots Norfolk held and the match ended 9-9. Finally H6 led 8-6 going into the final end and were in a good position in the head. Two great bowls from the Norfolk skip earned them an 8-8 draw. Two points from the session was a disappointing outcome when we led all three matches going into the final end .It was our first lost session of the day and Suffolk had now pulled clear at the top.

Session Score

Herts 2-4 Norfolk

Match Score

Herts 7-5 Norfolk

Session 6

Four matches against Essex in this session as H1, H2, H3 & H4 compete. This session only really ever looked like going one way and that was a split 4-4 session. H1 never really got into their match and were well beaten 11-2. It was a similar story for H4 who lost their match 14-5. H3 made it four wins from four; helped by six shots on the 2nd end they comfortably won their game 12-3. Finally, H2 whilst never completely getting away from their opponents they always looked reasonably in control and won 9-5. Suffolk had won three of their matches against Norfolk and we now trailed by five points.

Session Score

Herts 4-4 Essex

Match Score

Herts 4-4 Essex

Session 7

The penultimate session of the day. H5 & H6 complete the set of matches against Essex and H1 & H2 finish their day with matches against Suffolk. If we were to have any chance going into the final session we would need to win at least one of the matches against Suffolk. H5 & H6 would also need to pick up points in their matches with Essex. H5 controlled their match from start to finish and gained a 12-3 win. H6 also looked in control and took a 7-2 lead into the final end, a poor last end had them in trouble but Essex were only able to pick up four shots and we just managed to hold on for a vital 7-6 win. Meanwhile at the same time Suffolk were involved with two tight matches against Norfolk, they only managed to secure one win and the lead was now down to three points. The two games with Suffolk in this session were now vital and if we could manage to win them both we would take a one point lead into the final session. However, that never looked likely as H2 were completely out played and well beaten by their opponents 19-0. It was better news for H1 who always held a slight advantage and managed to secure a vital 8-4 win. A good session for us, picking up six points and meaning we trailed Suffolk by three points. Three wins from the final session would be enough to take a first ever county title for Hertfordshire.

Session Score

Herts 4-0 Essex

Herts 2-2 Suffolk

Match Score

Herts 8-4 Essex

Herts 2-2 Suffolk

Session 8

The final session of the day sees H3, H4, H5 & H6 finish up against Suffolk. Could we pull off the seemingly impossible and take the title? Having finished in last place in the previous year we had already guaranteed 2nd place could we now push for the title? H6 who had played fantastically all day and were unbeaten (W 3 D 1 L 0) looked like it was a game too far for them and they were well beaten 15-1. This meant that the other three teams would all need to win to take the title. Going into the final two ends all games were close and looked like it could go either way. H4 picked up a crucial five shot count on the 8th end and managed to defend that lead on the last to win their game 9-5. Going into the final end H5 led 6-5 and just needed to win the end. H3 had a little more work to do as they trailed 10-8 and would need three shots on the final end. Unfortunately, H5 were unable to win their final end and the match finished in a 7-7 draw. That result meant that the title was now gone. H3

held the three shots they needed for the win with just one bowl to come from the Suffolk skip. If H5 had managed to win their match this would have been a championship winning lie. The Suffolk skip played a great last wood to cut the shot count down from three to one (after a measure) and take the match 10-9.

Session Score

Herts 3-5 Suffolk

Match Score

Herts 5-7 Suffolk

Congratulations to Suffolk for winning the championship. A fantastic effort from the Hertfordshire team. We have progressed so far as a team and this time 2-3 years ago it would have been inconceivable to think we could come this close to winning our first ever title. Whilst we are all understandably devastated to come so close to winning, we need to take the positives from our performance and result and build on this for next season.

The final table is shown below;

<u>Team</u>	<u>SF</u>	<u>SA</u>	<u>Points</u>
1. Suffolk	302	194	45
2. Hertfordshire	244	219	40
3. Cambridgeshire	245	234	28
4. Essex	231	257	25
5. Norfolk	192	265	25
6. Bedfordshire	210	255	17

Each team's performance on the day is shown below.

	W	D	L	SF	SA	Pts
H1	3	0	2	42	38	6
H2	3	1	1	38	43	7
H3	4	0	1	48	28	8
H4	2	0	3	36	40	4
H5	3	2	0	44	32	8
H6	3	1	1	36	38	7
Total	18	4	8	244	219	40