

## ECCBA League Fixture 2

### Suffolk v Hertfordshire

#### Needham Market Community Centre – Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Our fourth league fixture of the season was a home fixture against Suffolk. The team chosen to represent us was as follows.

<b>H1</b>	<b>H2</b>	<b>H3</b>
1. Ron Hart 2. Mick Cook 3. Ollie Mercer-Smith 4. Craig Hearn	1. James Warren 2. Gary Young 3. Neil Tuckey 4. Matt Thurley	1. Emma Thurley 2. Stuart Palmer 3. Thomas Ellis 4. Rebecca Hearn
<b>H4</b>	<b>H5</b>	<b>H6</b>
1. Marilyn Cook 2. Dave Smith 3. Simon Missing 4. Pete Cook	1. Amy Missing 2. Jo Hilson 3. Lisa Edmead 4. Stuart Mcneil	1. Rosemary Biggs 2. Paul Harris 3. Jack Smalley 4. Jason Ellis

During the day the odd numbered teams would play at the same time and the even numbered teams would play at the same time.

#### **Session 1**

We made slow starts in all three games as we got used to the away carpets. H1 dropped a five on the 2<sup>nd</sup> end and found themselves 6-1 down after three ends. H3 also dropped a big count (a four on the 3<sup>rd</sup> end) to trail 4-2 after three ends and finally H5 dropped a two and a three on the early ends and trailed 5-1 after three ends. All three teams showed good character to claw their way back into their matches.

H1 won three consecutive ends to level the score at 6-6 after six ends, unfortunately three dropped shots on the 8<sup>th</sup> end gave them too much to do and despite winning the final end, the match was lost 10-7.

H3 exchanged singles on ends 4-7, to remain two shots adrift with two ends to play. They levelled the match with a double on the 8<sup>th</sup> end before taking a single on the last to edge their opponents out 7-6.

H5 scored five shots on the 4<sup>th</sup> end to take a 6-5 lead but found themselves 9-7 down with two ends to play. A singled and a double on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> ends respectively saw them take a 10-9 win.

A great first session for us, especially considering the scores in the early stages.

**Session Score**  
**Suffolk 2-4 Herts**

**Match Score**  
**Suffolk 2-4 Herts**

## Session 2

H2 made a great start in their game, surging out to an 8-0 lead after four ends. They dropped four on the 5<sup>th</sup> end but maintained their four shot advantage by exchanging twos on the next two ends. Their opponents reduced the deficit to 8-10 by picking up two shots on the 8<sup>th</sup> end, but our team held their nerve to win the last end and take the match 11-8.

H4 made a good start, picking up three shots on the first end but lost the next four ends to find themselves 8-3 behind. A crucial count of five on the 7<sup>th</sup> end catapulted them into a 10-8 lead. They were in for a nervy last end when they dropped a single on the 8<sup>th</sup> end. Their skip played a good last bowl to convert a draw into a win with an 11-9 victory.

There were never more than a few shots between H6 and their opponents and the score was locked at 6-6 with two ends to play. A single on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 2 shots on the 9<sup>th</sup> secured a good 9-6 win.

A brilliant session to take all three games and open an early lead over the reigning champions.

**Session Score**  
**Suffolk 0-6 Herts**

**Match Score**  
**Suffolk 2-10 Herts**

## Session 3

As we know they would, Suffolk come back at us hard in the 3<sup>rd</sup> session.

H5 got off to a great start and raced into a 5-0 lead after four ends. Unfortunately, they failed to win another end as their opponents eased away to a 10-5 win.

H1 trailed just 4-2 after four ends, but they failed to win any of the remaining five ends as their opponents stretched away and took a comfortable 14-2 win.

H3 were very much in the game up to the middle-latter part. After five ends they trailed by just two shots at 4-6. They didn't win another end till the last, and by that time they were trailing by six, coming out with a 10-6 loss.

Easily our worst session of the day as Suffolk win all three matches and get back to within two points at the halfway stage of the game.

**Session Score**  
**Suffolk 6-0 Herts**

**Match Score**  
**Suffolk 8-10 Herts**

## Session 4

A poor start from H6 saw them drop a five on the 2<sup>nd</sup> end, which was sandwiched between a double and a single, meant they trailed 8-0 after just three ends. They managed to get on the board on the 4<sup>th</sup> end, but their opponents won every end up to the last, by which point the game had got away from H6 and they fell to a 15-4 loss.

A run of five straight winning ends (2-6) enabled H2 to establish a strong 9-2 lead. They managed to drop a count of five on the final end, but that only added respectability to the score as they lead 11-4 at that stage, completing an 11-9 win.

H4 never dropped more than two shots on any one end of their game, but they only won three ends and two of those were the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> when they were already 10-1 behind, the final score being a 10-4 loss.

**Session Score**  
**Suffolk 4-2 Herts**

**Match Score**  
**Suffolk 12-12 Herts**

### **Session 5**

A session that we would likely have to win to retain hope of winning the overall match.

H3 were involved in a very tight low scoring game and there were never more than two shots between them and their opponents. All the way through the game only singles or doubles were scored, which didn't bode well for H3 going into the final end 4-6 in arrears. However, they played a great last end and scored the only three of the match to that a crucial 7-6 win.

H5 got off to a terrible start, dropping five on the first end and found themselves 7-2 after 3 ends. Three consecutive scoring ends in the middle part of the game got them back to 7-7 after 6 ends. Unfortunately, they could not score on the last three ends and succumbed to an 11-7 loss.

H1 were also involved in a tight match and the scores were level at 5-5 after 6 ends. Five shots scored on the remaining three ends was enough to give them an important 10-5 win.

**Session Score**  
**Suffolk 2-4 Herts**

**Match Score**  
**Suffolk 14-16 Herts**

### **Session 6**

We took a two-point lead going into the final session, needing a minimum of three points to win the overall match.

H6 were the first to finish, they dropped a three on the first end and repeated that on the 4<sup>th</sup> end to trail 6-4. They only dropped one further end after that point and picked up a couple of threes themselves to turn the match round and take a 12-7 win.

H2 participated in a seesaw match that score them go 3-0 in front, then 4-3 behind, before establishing a 5-4 lead. They lost a single on the 8<sup>th</sup> end to level the match and make it all to play for on the final end. Match lie down, our skip got shot with his first wood, only for the Suffolk skip to retake shot with his. A valiant effort with his last word was unable to retake shot and with it the match was lost 7-5.

H4 started slowly and found themselves 5-1 in arrears after four ends. Consecutive two's got them back level after six ends. Their opponents retook the lead with a two on the 7<sup>th</sup> end, only to see our team respond and take the lead for the first time in the match with a three on the 8<sup>th</sup> end to establish an 8-7 lead. A poor final end from the Herts team meant the skip needed to get some jack movement with his final bowl, any contact into the head looked like it would do enough, but agonisingly it somehow didn't. the end was lost and so was the match 10-8.

After leading earlier in the day 10-2, and taking a 16-14 lead into the final session, we come away a little disappointed. However, this is the first time ever we have avoided defeat in an away match with Suffolk. It is also the first time since the 2008/2009 season that Suffolk have not won a home league fixture. With that in mind, we should feel incredibly proud of our efforts and this result leaves us in a strong position to challenge for the league title.

**Session Score**  
**Suffolk 4-2 Herts**

**Final Score**  
**Suffolk 18-18 Herts**

The Hertfordshire team performances are shown below:

<b>Team</b>	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Drawn</b>	<b>Lost</b>	<b>SF</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>Points</b>
<b>H1</b>	3	1	0	2	19	29	2
<b>H2</b>	3	2	0	1	27	24	4
<b>H3</b>	3	2	0	1	20	22	4
<b>H4</b>	3	1	0	2	23	29	2
<b>H5</b>	3	1	0	2	22	30	2
<b>H6</b>	3	2	0	1	25	28	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>18</b>