

Eastern Counties Champion of Champions

Littleport Leisure Centre – Sunday 10th May 2026

This event sees the Hertfordshire County champions for each discipline play against the champions from the other eastern counties (Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk) on a round robin league basis to determine the Eastern Counties Champion of Champions. The team representing Hertfordshire in this event was as follows:

Singles	Pairs	Triples	Fours
Pete Cook	Rebecca Hearn Craig Hearn	Lauryn Walker Jack Smalley Jason Ellis	Emma Thurley Amy Missing Simon Missing Matt Thurley

Singles

Pete started with a match against Andrew Hatton of Bedfordshire. A nip and tuck start to the game saw Pete take a narrow early lead. He maintained that lead right up to the 8th end, but a poor 8th end saw him drop a four and fall 8-5 behind. He had a chance with his final wood to secure a draw but missed and the game was lost 8-7.

Next up was David Folkes of Cambridgeshire. Both players were playing well; Pete was having the better of the early exchanges but some good conversion shots from David kept him in it. Pete opened an 8-5 lead playing the last end where he managed to secure a single and take a 9-5 win.

Peter Orrin of Essex would be Pete's third opponent. He had won his opening two games so a win here would be crucial to keep Pete in the running. He played some good early bowls to open a lead, but some clutch bowls from Peter kept him right in the game. Coming into the final end Pete led 6-4, but was two down playing his last bowl, he was able to just draw in to take shot and secure a crucial 7-4 win.

Suffolk were the opponents in the penultimate session, a game against Rita Runnacles who was representing Suffolk again. Pete started well and opened a 6-1 advantage. He struggled with the line and speed a little in the second half of the game and Rita reduced the deficit to 6-5 playing the last end. Pete just managed to hold on taking a single on the last end to win the game 7-5.

The final match of the day was against Matt Frost who was representing Norfolk again. Both players had won 3 of their 4 games and it would be a straight shootout for the title. Pete held a small shot advantage so could afford to draw the game. Pete started well, opening a 9-4 lead after 6 ends. However, he played a poor 7th end and dropped four shots to reduce his lead to a single shot. He responded well

on the 8th to pick up 3, extending his lead to 12-8, before securing a single on the final end to win 13-8 and retain his ECCBA singles title.

SINGLES				Pts	F	A									
							Beds	Cambs	Essex	Herts	Norfolk	Suffolk	Pts	F	A
1	Hertfordshire	8	43	30				5 - 7	5 - 8	8 - 7	5 - 7	7 - 8	2	30	37
2	Cambridgeshire	6	39	32			7 - 5		11 - 7	5 - 9	4 - 7	12 - 4	6	39	32
3	Essex	6	38	33			8 - 5	7 - 11		4 - 7	9 - 4	10 - 6	6	38	33
4	Norfolk	6	35	38			7 - 8	9 - 5	7 - 4		13 - 8	7 - 5	8	43	30
5	Bedfordshire	2	30	37			7 - 5	7 - 4	4 - 9	8 - 13		9 - 7	6	35	38
6	Suffolk	2	30	45			8 - 7	4 - 12	6 - 10	5 - 7	7 - 9		2	30	45

Pairs

Bec and Craig also started with a game against Bedfordshire, things didn't go their way, and they were behind early and always chasing the game. They went into the last end needing a big count to win the game and although they held a draw at one point, the Bedfordshire skip got a little fortunate and the game was lost 10-5.

A switch over saw Craig bowl lead and Bec take over as skip in their next game against Cambridgeshire. They built an early lead which they were able to build on throughout the game and eased away to a 12-5 win.

Essex was their next opposition. A tight game where there was never much in the scoreline between the two teams. Craig and Bec did just enough to come away with an 8-6 win.

Suffolk would be their opponents in their penultimate game. They had won all three games so Craig and Bec would need to win this one to keep themselves in the running for the title. They fell behind early but battled hard to keep themselves in the game. In the end they just run out of ends as they succumbed to a 7-5 loss. That win meant the Suffolk pair had secured the title with a game to spare.

A switch back over in playing order for their final game against Norfolk. It was a match that they were always in control of, and they eased away to a comfortable 11-3 win.

A second-place finish for Craig and Bec. Neil Jolly and Tom Runnacles of Suffolk won the event. With this win Neil becomes just the second player to win all four disciplines, Paul Ellis of Cambridgeshire being the first.

PAIRS				Pts	F	A									
							Beds	Cambs	Essex	Herts	Norfolk	Suffolk	Pts	F	A
1	Suffolk	10	48	19				6 - 7	7 - 10	10 - 5	7 - 12	5 - 13	2	35	47
2	Hertfordshire	6	41	31			7 - 6		11 - 8	5 - 12	6 - 8	4 - 12	4	33	46
3	Essex	4	39	38			10 - 7	8 - 11		6 - 8	12 - 4	3 - 8	4	39	38
4	Cambridgeshire	4	33	46			5 - 10	12 - 5	8 - 6		11 - 3	5 - 7	6	41	31
5	Norfolk	4	29	44			12 - 7	8 - 6	4 - 12	3 - 11		2 - 8	4	29	44
6	Bedfordshire	2	35	47			13 - 5	12 - 4	8 - 3	7 - 5	8 - 2		10	48	19

Triples

Lauryn, Jack and Jason started off their day in strong fashion with a fairly routine 11-6 win over Bedfordshire.

Their second game against Cambridgeshire proved to be a little tougher. An even start to the game saw both teams playing some good early bowls. The middle part of the game got away from them and some effective bowls from the Cambs skip saw them take control of the game as they eased away to an 11-5 win.

Our triple responded well in the 3rd session against Essex. Some good consistent bowling saw them do enough to secure a 10-7 and keep themselves in the running for the title with four teams now tied on four points.

A win in the 4th session would be crucial to maintain hopes of taking the title. Unfortunately, it never looked likely. In the end they were well beaten as their opponents (Suffolk) secured an impressive 14-5 win.

With the two teams above them playing each other in the final session the title was now beyond them. They were looking to just finish positively with a win over Norfolk. Unfortunately, it was not to be. They never really got into the game, and the final score was a 9-3 loss.

A disappointing 6th place finish. Although they were tied on shots with four other teams. They will expect a better showing come the Nationals next month.

TRIPLES	Pts	F	A
1 Cambridgeshire	8	44	36
2 Suffolk	6	45	35
3 Norfolk	4	40	36
4 Essex	4	36	40
5 Bedfordshire	4	36	41
6 Hertfordshire	4	34	47

	Beds	Cambs	Essex	Herts	Norfolk	Suffolk	Pts	F	A
Bedfordshire		10 - 4	8 - 7	6 - 11	8 - 12	4 - 7	4	36	41
Cambridgeshire	4 - 10		11 - 6	11 - 5	8 - 6	10 - 9	8	44	36
Essex	7 - 8	6 - 11		7 - 10	8 - 5	8 - 6	4	36	40
Hertfordshire	11 - 6	5 - 11	10 - 7		3 - 9	5 - 14	4	34	47
Norfolk	12 - 8	6 - 8	5 - 8	9 - 3		8 - 9	4	40	36
Suffolk	7 - 4	9 - 10	6 - 8	14 - 5	9 - 8		6	45	35

Fours

Emma, Amy, Simon and Matt were looking to defend the title they won last year.

They started off with a very tight game against Bedfordshire. Trailing by one playing the last end Matt got shot with his first bowl and played a great draw with his second to an another and take the win 9-8.

You wouldn't have thought it was possible, but the second game was even closer. The score was 9-9 playing the final end and the game ended up coming down to a very tight measure that unfortunately went against us, meaning the game was lost 10-9.

Repeating the pattern of the day, the third game against Essex was another close one. Coming down to the final end again, this time we just come out on top by the odd shot taking a 9-8 victory.

The penultimate game was against Suffolk only a victory would keep them in with a chance of retaining their title. This was a little more comfortable than the previous games, although they never completely got away from their opponents, ending up winning 11-7.

Cambridgeshire had drawn their 4th game, which had opened the door slightly for our team. If they won and Cambs lost the title would be theirs. Cambridgeshire suffered their first defeat of the day as they were well beaten 15-2 by Suffolk. A win for our four would now secure them the title, that's exactly what they did taking an 8-5 lead into the final end, they picked up a single to secure a 9-5 win and retain their title.

FOURS	Pts	F	A
1 Hertfordshire	8	47	38
2 Cambridgeshire	7	48	49
3 Suffolk	6	48	36
4 Essex	5	47	36
5 Norfolk	4	47	43
6 Bedfordshire	0	28	63

	Beds	Cambs	Essex	Herts	Norfolk	Suffolk	Pts	F	A
Bedfordshire		7 - 14	4 - 16	8 - 9	5 - 14	4 - 10	0	28	63
Cambridgeshire	14 - 7		10 - 10	10 - 9	12 - 8	2 - 15	7	48	49
Essex	16 - 4	10 - 10		8 - 9	9 - 5	4 - 8	5	47	36
Hertfordshire	9 - 8	9 - 10	9 - 8		9 - 5	11 - 7	8	47	38
Norfolk	14 - 5	8 - 12	5 - 9	5 - 9		15 - 8	4	47	43
Suffolk	10 - 4	15 - 2	8 - 4	7 - 11	8 - 15		6	48	36

Team

A mixed opening session against Bedfordshire saw us win two and lose two, all other counties did the same so there was nothing to choose between any of the teams.

The second session was much the same, a reversal of scores for our individual teams, but another two wins and two losses against Cambridgeshire. This left us on 8 points, 4 behind the early leaders Essex and Suffolk but we had them to play so could make up that ground.

Making up ground on Essex is exactly what we did in the next session. We took all four games to catapult us into a share of the lead with Suffolk, Cambridgeshire were two points behind.

The fourth session against Suffolk would likely prove vital to our chances of winning the team event. A split session kept us very much in the running, taking us on to 20 points, still level with Suffolk. Cambridgeshire leapfrogged both of us and now led the standings on 21 points.

To our benefit, the two teams closest to us in the standings were playing each other in the final session so at least one of them if not both would be dropping points. In the triples and fours games, which were played first, all three teams picked up two points each, leaving the standings as they were.

Our singles and pairs would need to win their games, and we would need Suffolk and Cambridgeshire to split the singles and pairs. As it turns out, that is exactly what happened, allowing us to leapfrog Cambridgeshire in the final session to take the team title by a single point.

OVERALL	Pts	F	A
1 Hertfordshire	26	165	146
2 Cambridgeshire	25	164	163
3 Suffolk	24	171	135
4 Essex	19	160	147
5 Norfolk	18	151	161
6 Bedfordshire	8	129	188