

Cambridgeshire v Hertfordshire 15th February 2026

Hertfordshire's penultimate match of the season saw a visit to Cambridgeshire, on Sunday, 15th February, with a win absolutely essential to keep their hopes of a maiden league title alive.

H1 – Dave Smith, Jo Hilson, Jack Smalley, Craig Hearn
H2 – Ron Hart, Gary Young, Stuart McNeil, Neil Tuckey
H3 – Lauryn Walker, Stuart Palmer, Lisa Edmead, Jason Ellis
H4 – Marilyn Cook, Carole Drury, Simon Missing, Pete Cook
H5 – James Warren, Dan Watkins, Amy Missing, Matt Thurley
H6 – Emma Thurley, Paul Harris, Thomas Ellis, Rebecca Hearn

Session 1

H1/3/5 started off against the G Blunsten/Folkes/Wicks rinks. H1 were never really out of it, but were always scrapping for ones, and the game drifted away 5-9. A good start from H3, who looked confident and led throughout for a 12-3 win. After going 7-0 up, H5's game went south and they couldn't hang on, eventually falling to an agonising 7-8 defeat.

Not mathematically out of the league running, Cambs looked like they meant business and took the session 4-2.

Session 2

H2/4/6 were playing against the Hayde/K Blunsten/Giddens rinks. H2 had a couple of decent ends in their match but couldn't get away from a stubborn Cambs rink. Leading by 2 on the last end but 4 down on the mat, the H2 skip called for the firing shot early in the end and settled for the draw, 9-9. H4 were in a similarly close contest, which came down to the last end. H4 tried to set up a chance for the win but Cambs always had the positional woods behind the jack, and the game slipped away 8-11. The good news from the session came from H6, who in a tight game managed to pull away a small lead that they managed well to come through 9-4.

So an even session 3-3, and Cambs held on to the overall lead 7-5.

Session 3

H1 were in a tight game for a long time, but a mistake from the Cambs skip, taking the jack off the carpet when holding, gave H1 the shot in the arm they needed, and they eased away 12-5. H3 controlled their game early without running away, but then a near perfect setup on end 7 left Ellis holding 4, to which he added a further 2. There was no way back for Cambs after this and the game was won 14-3. No such joy for H5 who once again built a lead that they couldn't hang on to, and their game drifted away 6-10.

Four points from the session, and at the halfway mark the match score stood at 9-9.

Session 4

Whether it was the snow outside or some dodgy lattes I'm not sure, but the Cambs rinks all struggled to get out of the blocks in session 4. Herts still had to be there to take advantage and they were, with H2 winning 18-3, H4 winning 14-3 and H6 winning 12-4.

Hertfordshire had put together a good session at last, and now led 15-9.

Session 5

H1 were in big trouble at 1-7 down but they showed some tenacity to come right back into it and led 8-7 going into the last. With Smalley trailing the jack to lie 2, Cambs persisted with a tough forehand and were unable to affect the head, and H1 held on to the 2 shots for a 10-7 win.

H3 once again were excellent, relentlessly keeping pressure on the opposition, and completed their outstanding day with a 12-5 win.

H5's day went from bad to worse, unable to build any heads or have anything go their way, a grim day ended in a 4-10 defeat.

And with that 4 points for Herts, the match was won, the score stood at 19-11, but there were still league points to play for.

Session 6

H2 played a controlled game and forced Cambs to remove the jack twice, steadily building an unassailable lead. Despite a poor last end they still won 12-4. H6 were never really in this one, with the C2 rink bouncing back well from a heavy defeat. H6 battled on but could not create any chances, with the game drifting away 6-14. H4 were the last to finish, their game was close and they went into the final end 6-7 down, but Cambs finished strongly and held onto a 3, for a 6-10 defeat.

A damp squib of a last session in the end, with just 2 points to show for it.

The final match score was 21-15 to Herts, and although the result was fairly positive, with the exception of H3 who were top drawer, and an outlier of a fourth session, it had been a tough day, and credit must go to Cambridgeshire for providing a stern test.

Meanwhile Essex came from 1-5 down to hammer Suffolk 23-13 and take their place back at the top of the league standings. As predicted throughout the season, there is a high likelihood that this is going down to the last session on Sunday 15th March when Essex travel to Littleport, and Hertfordshire host Bedfordshire in Welwyn Garden City. If Herts and Essex both get nervous, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire may not be too far away.

Other Results:

Bedfordshire 13-23 Norfolk

Essex 23-13 Suffolk

League Standings:

	<i>Pl</i>	<i>Pts</i>
Essex	4	92
Hertfordshire	4	91
Suffolk	4	79
Cambridgeshire	4	77
Norfolk	4	68
Bedfordshire	4	25