

National Championships (Friday 13th November – Monday 16th November)

Potters Leisure Resort

We headed to the National Championships as Potters looking to improve on our 44 points and 5th place finish from last year.

The team chose to represent Hertfordshire was as follows;

A	B	C
1. Thomas Ellis	1. Corrine Brown	1. Alan Bull
2. Andy Cobbold	2. Jacqui Harris	2. Gill Barraclough
3. Sandra Gammage	3. Marilyn Cook	3. Jack Smalley
4. David Danby	4. Rob Washbrook	4. Mick Cook

D	E	F
1. Mary Cobbold	1. Andrea McKechnie	1. Lynda Coates
2. Leah Graves	2. Dave Smith	2. Margaret Forrest
3. Paul Ellis	3. Paul Harris	3. Rebecca Hearn
4. Pete Cook	4. Craig Hearn	4. Jason Ellis

During the weekend A,B & C would play at the same time and D,E & F would do likewise.

Saturday

Session 1

Teams A-C started the weekend with three games against Bedfordshire. The early stages were looking promising and it looked as if we may get off to the perfect start with three wins. A won their game 7-4, B were held to a 9-9 draw. Unfortunately C played a poor last couple of ends and with the last bowl of the game the Bedfordshire skip played a good shot to take a 10-9 win. The early indications were that the tournament might be closer than last year with al counties picking up early points.

	Pld	Pts
Essex	3	4
Cambridgeshire	3	4
Sunderland	3	4
Hertfordshire	3	3
Bedfordshire	3	3
Suffolk	3	2
Northumberland	3	2
Durham	3	2
Norfolk	0	0

Session 2

D, E & F would start with the hardest game possible a match with defending champions Suffolk. Team D never held a commanding lead but they always looked reasonably in control and secured a 9-5 win. Team E never got into their game and were well beaten 15-6. Team F had chances but they could not convert and lost their game 9-5. We sat in 6th place after two session but only three points behind the early leaders Essex.

	Pld	Pts
Essex	6	8
Suffolk	6	6
Sunderland	6	6
Durham	6	6
Bedfordshire	6	5
Hertfordshire	6	5
Northumberland	6	4
Norfolk	3	4
Cambridgeshire	3	4

Session 3

Due to there being an odd number of teams every county has to sit out a session every day. This was our sit out session. We dropped to the bottom of the table but had games in hand on the majority of the other counties. Suffolk ominously moved to the top of the standings.

	Pld	Pts
Suffolk	9	12
Essex	9	12
Sunderland	9	10
Norfolk	6	9
Durham	9	7
Northumberland	9	6
Cambridgeshire	6	6
Bedfordshire	9	5
Hertfordshire	6	5

Session 4

Cambridgeshire were the next opponents for D,E & F. Team F got off to a good start by securing an 8-5 win, team E had an improved performance from their first game but fell to a narrow loss 7-6. Team D had been outplayed for the majority of their match and trailed 8-3 going into the final end. Amazingly they picked up five shots on the last end with the Herts skip drawing in with his last wood to secure an unlikely 8-8 draw.

Those three points moved us up a couple of places; Suffolk still held the lead being closely followed by Norfolk who had made a strong start.

	Pld	Pts
Suffolk	12	16
Norfolk	9	15
Essex	12	14
Sunderland	12	12
Durham	12	11
Cambridgeshire	9	9
Hertfordshire	9	8
Northumberland	9	6
Bedfordshire	12	5

Session 5

A-C next faced Northumberland. All three games were close and looked like they could go either way. Team A eased away from their opponents and won 10-4. Team B & Team C were unable to win their matches but both secured useful draws. 8-8 and 11-11 respectively. The four points lifted us up another place in the table. Norfolk's strong start continued as they moved a point clear at the top with three games in hand too/

	Pld	Pts
Norfolk	12	19
Suffolk	15	18
Essex	15	16
Durham	15	15
Cambridgeshire	12	15
Hertfordshire	12	12
Sunderland	12	12
Northumberland	12	8
Bedfordshire	15	5

Session 6

D-F next faced Essex. All three games were again close. Team F played consistently well throughout their game and won 10-5. Team E got their first points of the weekend as they edged out their opposition 9-8. Team D held a good lead but played a poor end and let their opponents back into the game. It needed the Herts skip to secure the shot on the last end to win the match 10-8. A fantastic full six point session lifted us up to 4th in the table. Some way behind the leaders but just behind Suffolk on shots and just a point behind Durham (with three games in hand).

	Pld	Pts
Norfolk	15	23
Durham	18	19
Suffolk	15	18
Hertfordshire	15	18

Cambridgeshire	15	17
Essex	18	16
Sunderland	15	14
Northumberland	15	12
Bedfordshire	18	7

Session 7

A-C next faced Sunderland. Mixed fortunes for us in this session as team A secured an impressive 18-0 win. However, team B were beaten 11-8 and team C lost 12-4. We remained in 4th place but teams below us closed the gap.

	Pld	Pts
Norfolk	18	26
Suffolk	18	21
Durham	21	21
Hertfordshire	18	20
Cambridgeshire	18	20
Essex	21	19
Sunderland	18	18
Northumberland	18	16
Bedfordshire	18	7

Session 8

D-F next played Norfolk. F continued their impressive form with a good 8-6 win, team E lost a close game 12-10. Team D held a healthy lead but let it slip away; the Norfolk skip got the shot on the final end and inflicted a first defeat on team D 8-7. We remained in 4th place but had lost ground on the teams above us.

	Pld	Pts
Norfolk	21	30
Suffolk	21	27
Essex	24	25
Hertfordshire	21	22
Sunderland	21	22
Durham	21	21
Cambridgeshire	21	20
Northumberland	21	18
Bedfordshire	21	7

Session 9

The final session of the day would see A-C play Durham. A disappointed end to the day as team C were the only team to secure any points with a 7-7 draw. Team A lose 11-6 and team B were also beaten 12-9. After beating Essex 6-0 in the 6th session and putting ourselves into a strong position we picked up just 5 points from the final 9 games of the day. We sat in 7th place overnight, but were just three points behind 3rd placed Cambridgeshire.

	Pld	Pts
Suffolk	24	31
Norfolk	24	30
Cambridgeshire	24	26
Durham	24	26
Sunderland	24	26
Essex	24	25
Hertfordshire	24	23
Northumberland	24	20
Bedfordshire	24	9

Sunday

Session 10

Teams D-F would start against Bedfordshire. Team E secured a comfortable 11-4 win, team F were even more comfortable as they won their match 14-2. Team D could not complete a full house as they fell behind early and ran out of ends in trying to claw back the deficit as they lost 9-7. The four points lifted us up in to mid-table. Suffolk were now six points clear at the top, although Norfolk did still have games in hand.

	Pld	Pts
Suffolk	27	37
Essex	27	31
Cambridgeshire	27	31
Norfolk	24	30
Hertfordshire	27	27
Durham	27	26
Sunderland	27	26
Northumberland	27	21
Bedfordshire	27	11

Session 11

A-C would start with games against Suffolk. Team A played brilliantly as they won their match 8-5. Team B were unable to get a real foothold in their match and lost 10-2. Team C played well but their opponents were a little bit more consistent and won the match 11-6. We dropped back one place in the table but 3rd place was very much still within our reach.

	Pld	Pts
Suffolk	30	41
Norfolk	27	36
Essex	30	33
Cambridgeshire	27	31
Sunderland	30	30
Hertfordshire	30	29
Durham	30	26
Northumberland	30	21
Bedfordshire	30	17

Session 12

We sat this session out which allowed teams to move a way from us a little. Suffolk now held a commanding league at the top and it looked like they were going to retain their title.

	Pld	Pts
Suffolk	33	47
Norfolk	30	36
Cambridgeshire	30	36
Essex	33	35
Durham	33	34
Sunderland	33	31
Hertfordshire	30	29
Northumberland	33	25
Bedfordshire	33	17

Session 13

A-C next faced Cambridgeshire. Team A played well and were unfortunate to not take anything from their match as they lost 8-9. Team B played a solid game and deserved their 10-6 win. Team C secured a split 3-3 session with a battling 7-7 draw. We remained in 7th place in the table but were in touching distance of a number of teams above us.

	Pld	Pts
Suffolk	36	53
Norfolk	33	41
Cambridgeshire	33	39
Essex	36	35
Sunderland	36	35
Durham	36	34
Hertfordshire	33	32
Northumberland	33	25
Bedfordshire	36	18

Session 14

D-F next played Northumberland. Team D dominated their match from start to finish as they won 19-2. Team F also secured a good win as they won 11-5. Team E were unable to complete a full house as they fell to an 8-5 loss. The four points lifted us up to 5th place in the table, the top three were well clear of the chasing pack but 4th place was very much still possible.

	Pld	Pts
Suffolk	39	58
Norfolk	36	45
Cambridgeshire	36	44
Essex	39	37
Hertfordshire	36	36
Durham	39	35
Sunderland	36	35
Northumberland	36	27
Bedfordshire	39	19

Session 15

This would be a big session for us as we played Essex who were one place and one point ahead of us. Team B got us off to a good start win an 11-8 win, agonisingly team A lost 7-6 and team C lost 9-8. We remained in 5th but were now three points behind Essex (with three games in hand)

	Pld	Pts
Suffolk	39	58
Cambridgeshire	39	50
Norfolk	39	48
Essex	42	41
Hertfordshire	39	38
Sunderland	39	38
Durham	42	35
Northumberland	39	33
Bedfordshire	42	19

Session 16

D-F next played Sunderland. Team F's winning run (won every game apart from the first game) came to an abrupt end with an 18-2 defeat. Team E secured a good win 14-7. Team D held a match winning position but a great last wood from the Sunderland skip and the game was lost 5-6.

We dropped down a position in the table, just six points separated Essex in 4th place and Northumberland in 8th place.

	Pld	Pts
Suffolk	42	64
Cambridgeshire	42	54
Norfolk	42	48

Essex	45	43
Sunderland	42	42
Hertfordshire	42	40
Durham	45	37
Northumberland	42	37
Bedfordshire	42	19

Session 17

Teams A-C faced Norfolk in our penultimate match. Our chances of a 4th place finish were pretty much extinguished as we picked up just a single point. That point was won by team A with an 8-8 draw. Teams B & C were well beaten 2-12 and 3-11 respectively

	Pld	Pts
Suffolk	45	70
Cambridgeshire	45	54
Norfolk	45	53
Essex	48	47
Sunderland	45	44
Hertfordshire	45	41
Northumberland	45	41
Durham	45	37
Bedfordshire	45	21

Session 18

The final session of the weekend and D-F faced Durham. Team F finished off a good weekend with a 12-9 win. Team E lost their final game 11-4 and team D also went down to a 8-6 loss.

The final standings are detailed below. A 6th place finish for us. One place and one point worse than last year. A disappointing performance considering we had put ourselves in a strong position 2/3 of the way through Saturday's play. Congratulations to Suffolk who retained their title with an impressive Sunday performance winning 45/48 points on offer.

	Pld	Pts	SF	SA
Suffolk	48	76	504	268
Cambridgeshire	48	58	410	335
Norfolk	48	55	390	352
Sunderland	48	50	375	410
Essex	48	47	386	357
Hertfordshire	48	43	391	387
Durham	48	41	346	420
Northumberland	48	41	342	443
Bedfordshire	48	21	291	463

The Hertfordshire teams performances are detailed below. Special mention to team F who obtained 12/16 points and finished as our top team.

Team	Beds	Cambs	Durham	Essex	Norfolk	N'Land	Suffolk	S'Land	PI	Pts	SF	SA
A	7-4	8-9	6-11	6-7	8-8	10-4	8-5	18-0	8	9	71	48
B	9-9	10-6	9-12	11-8	2-12	8-8	2-10	8-11	8	6	59	76
C	9-10	7-7	7-7	8-9	3-11	11-11	6-11	4-12	8	3	55	78
D	7-9	8-8	6-8	10-8	7-8	19-2	9-5	5-6	8	7	71	54
E	11-4	6-7	4-11	9-8	10-12	5-8	6-15	14-7	8	6	65	72
F	14-2	8-5	12-9	10-5	8-6	11-5	5-9	2-18	8	12	70	59
									48	43	391	387