

Eastern Counties Championship

Littleport Leisure Centre – Sunday 13th April 2025

The final county fixture of the season was the Eastern Counties Championship held at Littleport Leisure Centre. The team chosen to represent us was as follows:

H1	H2	H3
1. Ron Hart 2. Mick Cook 3. Simon Missing 4. Craig Hearn	1. James Warren 2. Gary Young 3. Lisa Edmead 4. Neil Tuckey	1. David Danby 2. Paul Harris 3. Jack Smalley 4. Jason Ellis
H4	H5	H6
1. Marilyn Cook 2. Dave Smith 3. Stuart Mcneil 4. Pete Cook	1. Emma Thurley 2. Jacqui Harris 3. Amy Missing 4. Matt Turley	1. Sandra Gammage 2. Ollie Mercer-Smith 3. Thomas Ellis 4. Rebecca Hearn

Session 1

Hertfordshire 1-4 opened proceedings for us with four matches against Bedfordshire. A great start to the day for us as we managed to take 7/8 points available to us. H2 were the only team that failed to win, finishing with a 5-5 draw. The other teams won fairly comfortably with scores of 9-3 (H1), 11-3 (H3) and 13-4 (H4).

Session 2

H5 and H6 completed the fixtures against Bedfordshire, with two goods win to see us finish with 11/12 points from the six matches. H5 secured a 9-5 win, H6's was a little closer as they come out on top 9-8. H1 & H2 played their second match of the day against Cambridgeshire. H1 followed up their win in the first session with another, as they won 11-8. H2 were involved in another tight game but come out on the wrong side of it as they last 7-8.

Session 3

H3-H6 completed the fixtures against Cambridgeshire. A great session for us as we picked up 7/8 points. This time it was H5 that could not secure the win, but they did well to battle back from an early deficit to secure a 9-9 draw. The other three teams secured their second wins of the day with scores of 18-4 (H3), 8-5 (H4) and 15-10 (H6). 9/12 points against Cambridgeshire was a great return. All counties had now played two rounds of fixtures. Having just dropped four points (from a possible 24) we would have expected to be sitting top of the standings, but Suffolk had dropped just two points and led the way.

Team	Points
Suffolk	22
Hertfordshire	20
Norfolk	16
Essex	6
Cambridgeshire	5
Bedfordshire	3

Session 4

H1, H2 & H3 would play their 3rd match against Norfolk. A poor session for us as we lost two of the three games played. H3 kept up their 100% record with a good 11-4 win. H1 never really got going in their game and fell to a 9-3 loss. H2 held match lie, but the Norfolk skip got it with his last bowl which resulted in a 6-5 loss.

Session 5

H4, H5 & H6 would complete the matches against Norfolk. Two resounding wins 20-2 (H4) and 14-3 (H6) looked like it would make it the perfect session for us, but H5 lost to the last wood in their game 8-7, meant we had split the session 6-6 with Norfolk. Suffolk took maximum points from their games with Bedfordshire, meaning they had still just dropped two points, extending their lead over us to eight points.

Team	Points
Suffolk	34
Hertfordshire	26
Norfolk	22
Essex	12
Cambridgeshire	11
Bedfordshire	3

Session 6

Essex were the opponents for H1-H4 in this session as we tried to make up ground on Suffolk. A mixed session for us saw H1 (11-4) and H2 (9-5) take good wins, H3 fell to an 8-4 loss and H4 were held to a 7-7 draw after the Essex skip took shot with her last bowl.

Team	Points
Suffolk	38
Hertfordshire	31
Norfolk	26
Cambridgeshire	17
Essex	15
Bedfordshire	5

Session 7

H1 & H2 would play their final game of the day against Suffolk. H5 & H6 would finish the matches against Essex. We had narrowed the gap to seven points in the previous session. With four games against Suffolk in the final session to finish the day, we needed to outscore them in this session to be in with a chance. Realistically, we had to win both games against them in session seven. H5 picked up a narrow 6-5 win in their match with Essex, not such good news for H6 who were well beaten (13-4). Two close games for H1 and H2 in their matches with Suffolk. Unfortunately, we were only able to secure one win, which was by H2 (8-6). H1 fell to a 7-6 loss.

Those results meant Suffolk had extended their lead to nine points (with just eight to play for) and securing the title with a session to spare.

Team	Points
Suffolk	44
Hertfordshire	35
Norfolk	26
Cambridgeshire	24
Essex	20
Bedfordshire	7

Session 8

H3-H6 would complete the day with their games against Suffolk. A split final session for us as H3 (9-7) and H4 (12-4) secured wins, but H5 (12-5) and H6 (9-6) both suffered defeat.

Final Standings

Team	Points
Suffolk	48
Hertfordshire	39
Norfolk	32
Essex	28
Cambridgeshire	26
Bedfordshire	7

A good solid team performance but we were not able to live with the relentless pace Suffolk started the day. After the 5th of eight sessions, they had won 17 and lost 1. They only dropped twelve points across the entire day and six of those were against us. We could not match their level of performance against the other counties.

Team by team performance is displayed below.

Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	SF	SA	Points
H1	5	3	0	2	40	31	6

H2	5	2	1	2	35	31	5
H3	5	4	0	1	53	26	8
H4	5	4	1	0	60	22	9
H5	5	2	1	2	36	39	5
H6	5	3	0	2	48	33	6
Total	30	15	0	9	272	192	39