



Hertfordshire Bowls

Johns Trophy 2019

Johns Trophy vs Beds At Hatfield BC on Saturday 6th July at 13.30hrs

Violet Fane wrote in 1892 that “all good things comes to those who wait”and so it proved! With the league nicely set up for any of the four Counties able to win going into the last weekend, a Herts win may not have been enough if one of the other two Counties won by a better score.

A late injury to Sue BB meant a slight reshuffle for both the rinks of Sue and Mavis.

An enormous crowd packed into Hatfield, some even deserting the mens' Middleton Cup game just down the road, to see if Cinderella can go to the ball. Beds brought a fair number but the bar was set when the rinks were read out by our President, Cathy Newman. Beds – Whoop whoop, Herts – WHOOP WHOOP WHOOP. Round one to Hertfordshire.

Like the Norfolk game, the team starting quickly and won five of the six first ends, Alison's rink picking up a five. Even Stephen for a couple of ends before a fantastic six from Sue's rink sent the Herts hearts pounding followed by dropping a five sending the Herts hearts pounding. From then on, it was quietly managed by the skips, staying ahead by around ten for most of the match and always looking like, if no massive wobbles occurred, an 18-4 win. A litmus test for me on how a team performed over the course of the afternoon, is how many 4's and above did the rinks gain and lose. This score was eight to Herts and two to Beds so that is a massive positive to the team.

With a phone ban on, no-one knew the outcome until rumours began circulating, whilst the last finishing rink were just sitting down, that Norfolk had won a close game. This was confirmed as the top table began devouring their meal and was announced by Cathy. Hertfordshire had qualified to play Essex next weekend – the winner going through to the semi-finals at Leamington.

Alison's rink, after their great start remained solid winning 13 of the 21 ends and, for the third time, taking the “highest winning rink” valuable prize. It was always going to be tough for Mavis's rink with, essentially, three front end bowlers supporting Mavis. What was good about this rink was the lack of a big score for Beds throughout the game with only one '3', the rest being ones and twos. A very valuable contribution to the team. Dymphna's rink took an early lead and never looked back. Two 4's in the first eight ends followed by a couple of threes by the fifteenth end meant a gentle cruise to a rink win. Pat's rink started slowly and found themselves 11-1 down after seven ends. A gutsy fightback saw them chip away at that deficient and so nearly came back from the dead to only lose by two. Rachel's rink again found a skip that had not just walked in one cow field but a fist full. Holding six shots to three down was the standard and they soon found themselves 10-3 down after six ends. A magnificent six, which they held (last wood) was followed up by a run of winning ends and despite the 'fields', the rink ran out a comfortable winner. Sue's

rink was neck and neck for long periods (17-16 at fifteen ends) until the super burner kicked in and saw them win five of the last six ends.

I continue to learn from the opposition, who insisted that they will only pay for a half an umpire despite us supplying two because they will only have one at their home matches. Duly filed away and will be accessed for any Bedfordshire away game.

Our regular Barmy Army, with a number of others, were, as usual, our twelfth man and the noise and encouragement is really appreciated by the players and management. As soon as the venue is known for next weekend's neutral green Essex game, it will be posted on the Herts website. Please come and support, bring your rattles, pom poms and foghorns and see if you can out Essex Essex! You will continue to make that difference.

Alan Spicer
Johns/Walker Team Manager

Joan Welch

Sarah Best

Becky Maynard

Sue Maynard

WON 27-17

Sarah Marshall

Hannah Liddle

Cheryl Sage

Mavis Hendry

LOST 8-23

Betty Ottaway

Pauline Taylor

Carol Brown

Dymphna Whybrow

WON 22-13

Megan MacKinnon

Marion Smedley

Valerie Challacombe

Pat Hilson

LOST 17-19

Devon Cooper

Ann Dix

Marcia Dunstone

Rachel Tremlett

WON 25-20

Joanne Hollister

Natalie Chalcraft

Jess Eley

Alison Hall

WON 23-9

OVERALL 122-101

18-4

2019 Johns Trophy	Pl	W	D	L	For	Against	Pts
1 Hertfordshire	3	2	0	1	333	338	41
2 Norfolk	3	2	0	1	353	336	36
3 Leicestershire	3	1	0	2	357	347	29
4 Bedfordshire	2	1	0	2	343	365	26