

Match Report
Eastern Counties League
Hertfordshire v Norfolk

Result, Hertfordshire 125 (15pts) Norfolk 121 (7pts)

The men resumed their ECL campaign with their longest trip of the season to Thorpe Recreation BC in Norfolk, an eventful day with a late withdrawal plus the navigation of a very strange exit junction from the A47 found us a long way from home. We did however find a great club with an exceptionally good playing surface that all the players enjoyed.

There were ECL debuts for Brian Livesy, Mel Jones and 'Mac' Mackness. The dire weather predictions of extreme heat did not materialise, sunny with a gentle breeze made for a very comfortable morning, and comfortable it was for most of the morning scoring wise. Up on 4 rinks, down on 2 and a lead of 20 plus all seemed fine.

Then a few things happened, Rink 6, Norfolk won an end and brought the mat up which changed things.

The Norfolk skip on Rink 1 played 3 outstanding bowls to turn a 6, 3, and 4 for Herts into a loss of 7 shots over the 3 ends and so what was a comfortable morning soon became yet another nail biting finish, something the team have had on many occasions this year.

Through out the year we have worked on staggering our finishes and being aware of the overall situation, so last end, 2 up on the match but 2 down on the actual rink playing the last end, we need the overall win but also points from the rink for a win or tie. A tricky situation, it all looked good 3 up with just the skips to bowl. Norfolk skip fires, wide we all think only to clip the back edge of the widest Norfolk bowl to push it in sideways for shot, ouch. Glenn bowls and lifts a Herts bowl onto their shot wood turning it away by a half a roll. 1 and a measure. Norfolk skip fires, wide again we think and this time he was wide and missed. The measure secured a 2 for a Tie and a point and at the same time securing 10pts for an overall win. A well played end by Herts.

A big shout out to the Hertfordshire Exec rink, played 5 won 5 and sit top of table for the Exec league, we wish them well in their last game where a win will secure them first place.

May I take this opportunity to thank all the players for their time and travel, this match was over 200 miles round trip for many and without those players we wouldn't have had a team.



Roger Evans
Manager