

**Match Report**  
**Eastern Counties League**  
**Hertfordshire v Norfolk**

**Result, Hertfordshire 139 (22pts) Norfolk 89 (0pts)**

**Hertfordshire Men continued their ECL campaign with their first home game of the season at Royston. Yet again summer had failed to arrive and the general description of the weather could only be described as ‘cold.’ Congratulations to Matt Hazelden on his debut ECL match.**

**Pre game was a celebration of achievement of 2022. Full County Badge to Martyn Ball, ECL Flashes to Martyn Ball, Hayden Chambers, Rob Dempster, Paddy Jones, Mathew Murphy & Ross Murphy. Further congratulations for Middleton Cup Flashes to Martyn Ball, Paddy Jones & Ross Murphy. The Middleton Cup Trophy was Presented to Royston for safe keeping and as a symbol of what was achieved last year. Pre match we spoke about momentum and winning. After last year achievements and the season opener of 22.0 we certainly made a cracking start.**

**The team did not disappoint and the outcome was another 22.0.**

**The match followed the same pattern as the previous week, a fast start and at 10 ends we were 15 up. The only rink behind was Scott’s, although bowling well they were 5-14 down, a 3.2.3 changed things around and with Garry going 4.4.2 it seemed to break the back of Norfolk’s resistance. With the game secure at 18 ends being up by 40 plus it was left to the 3 tighter rinks to secure the additional points. Craig’s low scoring game meant he was defending a 2-shot lead, with bowls in the head and back bowls Norfolk could only ditch the jack for 1, Craig with his last bowl nonchalantly drew within a foot of the ditch for shot.**

**Ele on the 18<sup>th</sup> end was in a little bit of trouble but a great strike killed the end, the subsequent replayed end resulted in a 4 giving his rink an 8 shot lead which they held onto.**

**Last to finish was Scott’s rink of Paddy, Dan & Bally, having fought back from 5-14 they went into the last end 3 up, however with a tight head they found themselves 3 possibly 4 down to bowls within inches, controlled weight into the head by Scott resulted in a little bit of luck and shot wood, us having back woods there was nothing Norfolk could do and so was secured another full house of points.**

**From a manager’s point of view looking through the cards afterwards it was pleasing to see Herts score 8 ends of 4 shots while only conceding a single 4.**

**Roger Evans**  
**Manager**