



Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association

SCBA Website is www.carpetbowls.org/suffolk

**The Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of the
Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association
Held at Needham Market Community Centre on Monday 19th. November 2012**

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm

Those present: Keith Armes (KA) Chairman), Keith Jolly (KJ) Treasurer), Graham Robinson (GR) Secretary), Richard Sago (RS) Jane Sago (JS), Neil Jolly (NJ), Mick Watkins (MW), Neil West (NW), Freda Wright (FW), John Varden (JV).

1. **Apologies for absence:** Andy Guilder, Jim and Sally Goodrich.
2. **Approval of previous Minutes:** The minutes were approved and duly signed.
3. **Matters Arising:** KJ would like to have the "reminder column" re-instated. GR explained that he had spoken to the photocopy engineer who felt that no action was needed yet as plenty of life left before servicing required. Regarding filling the space on the committee, it was felt that someone with an "outside view" would be useful. NJ suggested therefore maybe approach someone from East division 3?
JS mentioned a cheque had been given for the use of the equipment by the WI.
4. **Chairman's report:** The Chairman announced he had nothing to report this time.
5. **Secretary's report:** GR had nothing to report but thanked all who assisted with the pairs and the triples.
6. **Treasurer's report:** KJ requested that any club paying by personal cheque should have the club name on the back of said cheque.
7. **Match Secretary's report:** There was no report on this occasion but JG did send an e-mail to GR stating that everything was going well at present.
8. **CPO Report:** As AG could not be present he had sent an e-mail to KA and GR stating no change in present.
9. **County Captains report:** Regarding the Team Bowl held on 30th. September, Suffolk finished 2nd. to Cambridge- see attached report. At the Nationals at Potters the weekend of the 5th.-8th. October, the inter county league competition held on Friday night saw a good win for Suffolk against Sunderland - see attached report. However on the Saturday and Sunday we saw Suffolk once again 2nd. to Cambridgeshire - see attached report. After the County trials held on the 14th. October the Suffolk squad has three new additions- see attached report.

10. Closed Tournaments: GR to confirm correct date i.e 20th. or 27th. October.2013 for the closed triples. (GR)

RS suggested an e-mail to Sharon at East Bergholt a week before competitions to confirm numbers so as to easier catering arrangements. (GR)

GR thanked Paul Daniels for his work in running the closed competitions.

GR mentioned the usual problem of clubs providing equipment... same clubs always seem to volunteer. KJ mentioned the £10.00 per set should be an incentive, and suggested "a man with a van" as an option. MW said good idea, but access to equipment could prove difficult. RS stated that if individual clubs bring a carpet, more "help" on the day is available. NW asked if we might consider Needham Market but this venue would entries.

11. Suffolk v Heritage date: RS stated that no date agreed for this year. JS suggested miss this year and try to find date and venue for next year? JV suggested we should try and arrange. KA suggested Needham Market. Need to check dates for 2013. RS to speak to Chairman of Heritage League and try to arrange April date next year. (RS)

12. English Carpet Bowls Association: MW reported no recent meeting. The next meeting will be in January. NJ pointed out that there have been some amendments to the Rules and a copy will be distributed to each club. NJ asked MW if new rule changes could be highlighted or printed in italic to make more obvious. (GR)

13. ECCBA: NJ reported that there was discussion about changing number of woods used in pairs. Score cards once signed and handed in are final. But score cards can be changed if both skips agree at time.

14. Charity Tournament: RS reported 20 entries to date. All in hand. Help on the day would be nice and donations to the raffle would be appreciated. A member of the Stroke Association hopes to be present on the day.

15. Any other business: KJ reported he had written to two clubs who have not yet rejoined the Association, 1 club has since replied we are still awaiting a response from the other club.

KA wished everyone the very best for Christmas and the New year.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

The date of the next meeting will be Monday 21st January 2013 at Needham Market Community Centre

Suffolk Squad Trials – 2012

The Suffolk Squad trials were held at Bildeston Village Hall on Sunday 14 October 2012. Whilst entries were slightly down on last year there was a good mix of last season's squad, some bowlers from previous squads and more importantly some bowlers who were at the trials for the first time.

Initially all of the bowlers were placed into rinks, each rink playing three six end games on different mats. Every bowl was scored on its accuracy relative to how close it finished to the shot they were asked to play.

After a lunch break all bowlers were then tested on their ability to play drawing bowls. Across three mats each bowler was asked to bowl four bowls (two forehand, two backhand) at first a middle jack, then a long jack and finally a short jack. Every bowl scored on its accuracy relative to how close it finished to the jack.

Finally three further shots were set up. The spring shot, bowling a wood on to another which was touching the jack to spring it to a designated area. Secondly, bowling to designated corner areas of the mat. Lastly the take-out shot, bowls placed on the end of a mat, to be taken off with the wood bowled remaining on the mat to secure a maximum score. Again all bowls were scored relative to how close they came to achieving the shot needed.

During the entire day there was a high standard of bowling and whilst everyone was there to gain a position in the squad, the day was played in a friendly manner, with plenty of encouragement to be heard.

After the trials the Selection Committee met to choose the squad for the 2012/13 season. This proved to be a very difficult task with competition for every place in the squad, given the high standard of entries and bowls played.

Everyone's performance was discussed before a final squad of 26 bowlers was selected. The squad in full is:

Neil Jolly (Captain) - Brockley	Sue Jones - Brockley
Sally Goodrich (Selector) - Claydon	Jon Jordan – Walpole & Cookley
Steven Cain (Selector) – Gt Blakenham	David Mittell – Gt Blakenham
Don Allum – Gt Blakenham	Andy Pooley – Gt Blakenham
Andrew Cooper - Hundon	James Rous – Wapole & Cookley
Paul Daniels - Kelsale	Peter Runnacles – Barking
Sue Davey - Cockfield	Rita Runnacles – Barking
Colin Fellingham - Cockfield	Sam Runnacles – Barking
David Ford – Gt Blakenham	Tom Runnacles – Barking
Andy Gilder - Barking	Ralph Sadgrove – Hundon
Sue Gilder - Barking	Neil Tuckey - Withersfield
Jim Goodrich - Claydon	John Varden – Old Felixstowe
Ellen Grube - Hundon	Mick Watkins – Barking

The squad is now looking forward to their first Eastern Counties league match, at home (Bildeston Village Hall) to Hertfordshire on Sunday 25 November 2012.

Neil Jolly (Suffolk Captain)

Inter County League Play-Off Match 2012

The 2012 Inter County League Play-Off match was held on the evening of Friday 5 October at Potters.

The match was between Suffolk (Eastern Counties League winners) and Sunderland (Northern Counties League winners) for the 2011/12 season. Suffolk were the defending champions having beaten the same opposition in last year's match.

Each team were represented by six rinks (fours), each playing one nine end game. The team selected to represent Suffolk was:

A: Jim Goodrich, Ralph Sadgrove, Paul Daniels, Andrew Cooper

B: Sally Goodrich, Ali Cook, James Rous, Sue Gilder

C: David Ford, John Varden, Mick Watkins, David Mittell

D: Andy Pooley, Ellen Grube, Neil Tuckey, Tom Runnacles

E: Peter Runnacles, Don Allum, Colin Fellingham, Steven Cain

F: Sue Davey, Trevor Bean, Andy Gilder, Neil Jolly

As with last year's match, all of the games were tight and tactical affairs. At the half-way stage Suffolk were in the stronger position as they were comfortably ahead in a couple of the games. However the remaining games were all close and could go either way.

In the first game to finish, Suffolk F who had taken an early commanding lead eased away to win well 13-6.

That was then followed by tighter wins for both Suffolk A by 8-6 and Suffolk B by 10-9.

With three wins in the bank Suffolk were in pole position and needed only another point to close out the match. That point was duly delivered by Suffolk D with a hard earned 6-6 draw.

Victory assured and Suffolk E extended the overall advantage with a further win. In what started as a tight game, they dominated the last few ends to win comfortably 13-5.

The final game playing saw Suffolk C taking an early lead which was gradually whittled away. Unable to win the last end that game was lost 10-8.

It had been a high quality match which Suffolk were delighted to win 9-3 (shots: 58 – 42). The final scoreline not reflecting how close the games had been, in which the Sunderland team had more than played their part.

Suffolk had defended their title and were the 2012 Inter County League winners.

Neil Jolly (County Captain)

Six Counties Charity Teambowl 2012

On Sunday 30 September 2012 Norfolk CBA hosted the Six Counties Charity Teambowl at Littleport. Their chosen charity was the East Anglian Air Ambulance.

The competition involved the six Eastern Counties, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk.

Each county were represented by four singles bowlers, four pairs and four triples, each playing one seven end game against each of the other counties.

Suffolk were the defending champions and were also looking for their fourth consecutive win in the event.

The team selected to represent Suffolk was:

S1: Neil Tuckey (single), Jim Goodrich & Andrew Cooper (pair), Shirley Watkins, Ellen Grube & Sue Gilder (triple);

S2: John Varden, Peter Runnacles & Colin Fellingham, Trevor Bean, Ralph Sadgrove & David Mittell;

S3: Tom Runnacles, Don Allum & Steven Cain, Sue Jones, Sally Goodrich & Andy Gilder;

S4: Mick Watkins, Andy Pooley & Paul Daniels, Sue Davey, Ann Hathaway & Neil Jolly

The first session opposition were Bedfordshire and the Suffolk singles made a reasonable start with two wins, S1 winning well 13-2 and S3 edging their game 7-6. They were followed on by the pairs and again only two wins could be secured. S1 winning comfortably 16-1 and S2 by 7-5. Things improved in the triples games however with all four Suffolk teams winning, by scores of 9-5, 10-4, 10-2 and 13-2. Overall Suffolk had scored sixteen points against Bedfordshire, which was a few less than they would have hoped for.

Next up were Essex and with their singles bowlers playing well, Suffolk struggled to just one win, S2 winning well by 11-2. There was then an improved display by the Suffolk pairs winning a couple of games, S1 (14-1) and S3 (7-6), with S4 taking another point with a 7-7 draw. Unfortunately the triples were unable to repeat their first session results, gaining only one win, S2 by 7-4 and another draw from S1, 6-6. Suffolk had only managed a disappointing ten points from Essex.

Cambridgeshire, the current leaders of the event were the next opposition and Suffolk needed an improved performance. After four close singles games the points were shared with the Suffolk wins coming from S2 by 5-3 and S3 by 5-4. The Suffolk pairs then continued their good form by taking three important wins, S1 by 6-5, S2 by 8-4 and S4 by 5-4. Unfortunately the triples could not secure an overall advantage as only one win was picked when S2 won 9-3. Twelve points each was the final outcome, a fair reflection given the tight games but not enough for Suffolk in the overall context of the event.

Suffolk's penultimate opponents were Norfolk and this time the singles got the team off to a good start with three wins. S3 won comfortably 14-3 and there were also wins for S1 by 6-3 and S4 by 8-6. That result was then replicated by the pairs who again played well, particularly S4, winning 13-0. S2 and S3 edging their games 7-6 and 8-6 respectively. A good session was completed by the triples who also won three games. S2 kept up their unbeaten record winning 8-4 and S1 won 7-4 and S4 by 9-3. Overall a creditable eighteen points had been taken from Norfolk.

Going into their final session against Hertfordshire, Suffolk needed a big win and a shock Cambridgeshire loss against Bedfordshire to get top spot. Unfortunately neither happened. The Suffolk singles could only muster a solitary victory, when S1 won 10-2. The pairs were only slightly better with two wins, through S1 by 10-4 and S2 by 8-6. The triples finished the event with three wins, S1 by 10-4, S3 by 12-0 and S4 by 7-6. Twelve points from Hertfordshire was a disappointing return but the performances didn't merit a higher score.

The final points and placings were:

Cambridgeshire	77
Suffolk	68
Essex	63
Bedfordshire	58
Norfolk	50
Hertfordshire	44

It had not been a good day for Suffolk, in an event they usually do well in. Generally performances had been below par and that had been reflected by some disappointing results across the day. Credit must however go to the pairs of Jim Goodrich/ Andrew Cooper and Peter Runnacles/ Colin Fellingham and the triple of Trevor Bean/ Ralph Sadgrove and David Mittell who all won four out of their five games.

The Suffolk team will now be putting this competition behind them as they look forward to the National Championships at Potters over the weekend of 5 – 7 October.

Neil Jolly (County Captain)

National County Championships 2012

On Friday 5 October the Suffolk team and their supporters travelled to Potters Leisure Resort at Hopton-on-sea for the 2012 National County Championships.

Ten counties were competing, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Durham, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland and Suffolk. Each county were represented by six rinks (fours), each rink playing one nine end game against all of the other counties, over a weekend of bowling.

The team selected to represent Suffolk was:

A: Jim Goodrich, Ralph Sadgrove, Paul Daniels, Andrew Cooper

B: Sally Goodrich, Ali Cook, James Rous, Sue Gilder

C: David Ford, John Varden, Mick Watkins, David Mittell

D: Andy Pooley, Ellen Grube, Neil Tuckey, Tom Runnacles

E: Peter Runnacles, Don Allum, Colin Fellingham, Steven Cain

F: Sue Davey, Trevor Bean, Andy Gilder, Neil Jolly

The competition started on the Saturday morning and Suffolk's first opponents were Sunderland, who they had beaten the night before in the Inter County League Play Off match. Continuing where they had left off Suffolk rinks A, B and C all began confidently and it was the perfect start with three wins, 9-6, 12-5 and 10-2 respectively.

Rinks D, E and F also started their weekend's bowling against northern opposition, in Durham. Again they made a good start to their games and two games were never in doubt with E winning 12-4 and F by 13-2. Suffolk D's game could not have been closer but they held their nerve to edge it 5-4.

Next up for A, B and C were South Tyneside, a session where another three wins were hoped for. Unfortunately A never got in to their stride and their game slipped away 6-11. Better news on the other two mats though with wins for both B (9-3) and C (10-5).

Local rivals Essex faced rinks D, E and F next and difficult games were anticipated. All three games were tight at the start but it was F who were first to take control of their game, easing away to a 14-6 win. The two other games remained close but again Suffolk came out on top overall with D winning 9-6 and E securing a point with a 6-6 draw.

It was more Eastern Counties opposition for A, B and C as they faced Norfolk next. This turned out to be Suffolk's first session defeat as two games were lost, A by 7-11 and B by 5-9. Suffolk C managed the solitary win, in a low scoring game 8-3.

Suffolk's main rivals and current leaders of the event Cambridgeshire faced D, E and F next. It was a session of quality bowls, with all three games going right down to the last bowl. Frustratingly for Suffolk two games were lost on that final bowl, both D and F losing 6-7 and E got their second consecutive 6-6 draw. A disappointing one point scored in a session where the performances had deserved more.

Suffolk A, B and C then made up for the disappointment of the last session, taking maximum points against Northumberland. B led the way with a comfortable 13-1 win and this was followed up by A winning 10-5 and C edging theirs by the odd shot, 7-6.

Hertfordshire provided the next opposition for D, E and F. Two of the games always looked like heading Suffolk's way and finished with comfortable wins for D by 14-3 and F by 12-2. Unfortunately a maximum return was missed as E struggled to a 5-6 defeat.

In the final session of Saturday A, B and C faced Bedfordshire. It was a good finish to day one as three wins followed. Whilst A struggled to an 8-7 win, it was far more comfortable for B and C as they won 12-4 and 16-3 respectively.

Saturday had been a good day for the Suffolk rinks, generally they had all played well and overall they had scored 40 points, losing only six games. However Cambridgeshire had only dropped four points all day and held a healthy ten point lead over Suffolk, which would take some catching. Essex were lying third, with Sunderland fourth and both would be looking to make inroads on the top two during Sunday.

Sunday morning, as with Saturday got off to a great start for Suffolk with another clean sweep of wins against Sunderland. Rinks D and F won well 11-5 and 12-4, whilst E sneaked a 7-6 win to ensure the maximum six points.

The other Suffolk rinks then faced Durham, A led the way with an easy 14-3 win and C followed that up by winning 8-4. Meanwhile B were involved in a see-saw game where losing a high shot count on the penultimate end proved costly and the game was lost 8-15.

South Tyneside were next for D, E and F and all three games were controlled by the Suffolk rinks right from the start. Another maximum return was never in doubt with three wins, D by 13-5, E by 15-2 and F by 11-5.

Third place Essex were the next opposition, a session Suffolk could not afford to lose. After some quality games Suffolk maintained their advantage over Essex, with the session tied. Suffolk B winning 10-6, A losing 4-10 and C, with the skips excellent last bowl securing a hard earned 8-8 draw.

Rinks D, E and F now faced Norfolk, looking for improved results from Saturday's games between the two counties. In two of the games Suffolk wins always looked likely, E winning 13-2 and F by 12-3. The other game was close from the start and went to the final bowls, unfortunately D came out on the wrong end of the 6-7 result.

The top two teams now faced each other again, with Cambridgeshire having now slightly extended their overall advantage in the competition to twelve points. This would be Suffolk's best chance of closing the gap and putting some pressure on their rivals. Disappointingly for Suffolk, again the session did not go their way. Neither rinks A or C got into their games, losing 7-13 and 4-16, although this was C's first defeat of the weekend. The shining light were B, who played really well on their way to a 10-4 win.

Realistically top spot was beyond Suffolk now but they needed to keep their focus to ensure second position was maintained. Northumberland were the next opponents and two games went to Suffolk with D running away to an 18-3 win and F scraping a 10-6 win. The other game involving rink E went to the very last bowl and they were unlucky to be edged out 5-7.

The final games of the weekend for A, B and C were against Hertfordshire and from the outset three Suffolk wins looked on the cards. Controlling all of the games, a maximum return to finish with A winning 13-5, B by 15-3 and C by 13-3.

With second place now guaranteed the final session saw Suffolk play Bedfordshire. From the mid-way stage two of the games were clearly heading Suffolk's way, finishing with 11-5 and 12-3 wins for E and F. The final game saw a miracle last bowl from the Suffolk skip to snatch a 9-5 win for D, from the jaws of defeat.

Overall the finishing positions were:

		PTS
1st	Cambridgeshire	97
2nd	Suffolk	81
3rd	Essex	70
4th	Sunderland	58
5th	Durham	56
6th	Northumberland	40
7th	Norfolk	39
8th	South Tyneside	39
9th	Hertfordshire	34
10th	Bedfordshire	26

Whilst being disappointed to finish as runners-up again to Cambridgeshire, much credit has to go to all of the Suffolk rinks for their performance across the weekend. Losing just twelve games out of fifty four reflects how well the team played and the overall points total of eighty one might well have been good enough to win the event in previous years.

The Suffolk team congratulate the Cambridgeshire bowlers on their win and acknowledge that losing only four games in the competition and leading from start to finish makes them deserved winners.

The Suffolk bowlers thank everyone who travelled to Potters and supported the team during this long weekend of bowls. They gave constant encouragement to the Suffolk bowlers and this was greatly appreciated.

Neil Jolly (County Captain)

Suffolk – v – Cambridgeshire

On Sunday 9 December Suffolk played their second ECCBA league match of the season, home against Cambridgeshire at Bildeston village hall.

Both teams had got their season off to a winning start, but Cambridgeshire held top spot in the league, having scored thirty two points against Bedfordshire, with Suffolk having won 27-9 against Hertfordshire.

The Suffolk rinks selected to face Cambridgeshire were:

Suffolk 1 (S1): Jim Goodrich, John Varden, Paul Daniels, James Rous

Suffolk 2 (S2): Sue Jones, Ellen Grube, Neil Tuckey, Sue Gilder

Suffolk 3 (S3): David Ford, Rita Runnacles, Andy Gilder, David Mittell

Suffolk 4 (S4): Sally Goodrich, Don Allum, Jon Jordan, Tom Runnacles

Suffolk 5 (S5): Sue Davey, Andy Pooley (Peter Fellingham), Colin Fellingham, Neil Jolly

Suffolk 6 (S6): Peter Runnacles, Ralph Sadgrove, Mick Watkins, Steven Cain

In the first session all of the games got off to low scoring starts, with some mixed performances by the Suffolk rinks. However it was S3 who were to put the first Suffolk points on the board. From 4-2 behind they won five of the last six ends to win their game 11-6. S5 were also struggling at the start, finding themselves 5-1 behind after five ends. They then also staged a great recovery scoring seven unanswered shots on the remaining ends to win 8-5. In the other game S1 had made the better start of the home rinks, being 3-0 and then 5-3 up. They then dropped four shots and the game went into the last end level at 7-7. On the final end they were unable to move the jack to a winning position and were unfortunate to lose 8-7.

The second session of the day saw both S4 and S6 off to flying starts. S4 were 6-0 up after just three ends and there was no way back for the opposing rink. Whilst S4 lost three of the next five ends, a three shot count on the final end saw them comfortably over the line by 11-4. Meanwhile S6 had made a better start, in complete control after four ends with a 10-0 lead. Conceding only a couple of single shots they raced away to a convincing 17-2 win. Lastly S2 had got off to a terrible start, 7-1 down after four ends and there looked no way back. However a superb six shot count on the seventh end to level the game at 8-8 started the great escape. A further two shots on the penultimate end saw them take the lead, which they clung on to during the last end to seal a remarkable 10-9 win.

After maximum points in the previous session, the Suffolk rinks started the third session confidently. Again it was S3 who led the way, bowling well to be 6-1 up after four ends. They then suffered a mid-game wobble losing four shots over the next two ends but bounced back with five shots on the next two ends and eased to their second 11-6 win. S1 had also earned themselves an early advantage but struggled during the middle ends to be 8-5 behind, which they reduced to 8-7 with an end to play. The Suffolk rink played the final end well but it still took an excellent last wood from the home skip to steal a hard earned but well deserved 9-8 win. S5 were also involved in a close game, they were 2-0 and 5-2 up but a poor fifth end saw the game levelled at 5-5. However they then took control of the game, scoring three single shots and finishing with a last end three shot count to secure an 11-5 win.

The fourth session again started well for S4 scoring thirteen unanswered shots on ends two to five to gain a convincing 13-1 lead. It was fortunate they had such a substantial lead as they relaxed too much on the final ends and didn't score another

shot in winning 13-10. S2 were involved in a see-saw game, losing the first end, then their 4-1 lead was pegged back to 4-4 and their 6-4 lead brought back to 6-6. However they held their nerve during the final three ends, winning them all to take the game 10-6. S6 were involved in a similar game, their early 3-0 and 5-4 leads were reversed and they were 6-5 behind after the fifth end. Another recovery resulted in them going into the final end with a slim 8-7 advantage. The last end could've gone either way until the Suffolk skip made the brave decision to spring the jack to the end of the mat, scoring two shots in the process and securing a 10-7 lead.

Remarkably Suffolk now held an overall 22-2 lead and Cambridgeshire had not won a game since the first session. However with two sessions to go Suffolk would want to hold or hopefully extend their match advantage.

The penultimate session was a disappointing for Suffolk. Whilst their performance level didn't dip, two games were lost with the win secured by the continually improving S1. Winning the first three ends set them on their way and by the sixth end they had a built a good 7-1 lead. The last four ends were shared but S1 held on to record an important 8-5 win. Meanwhile for S3 and S5, it was a case of what could've been. S3 secured an early 3-0 lead which they held on to until the penultimate end where they went behind 8-7. They had opportunities to win the last end but just failed to move the jack to a match lie position, resulting in a 9-7 defeat. A similar story for S5, indeed they were winning their game throughout, albeit not comfortably. They had one shot leads at 2-1, 3-2, 5-4 and 6-5. However a disappointing last end, where they were also unable to move the jack resulted in a 7-6 loss.

Suffolk were looking to regain the momentum at the start of the final session. It was S2 who immediately stamped their authority on the game not losing an end until the sixth, at which time they were 9-1 ahead. Continuing their impressive form they scored a further five unanswered shots to win 14-1. S4 meanwhile got off to a shocking start conceding five shots on the first end. Regaining their composure they edged back into the game to level the game at 6-6 on the sixth end and going into the last end they held a slim 8-7 lead. That end was a tight affair but a fantastic final bowl by the Suffolk skip secured another two shots and a 10-7 win. Lastly it was disappointment for S6 who were always chasing their game, slipping to 8-3 behind after six ends. However like many Suffolk rinks before them they never gave up but ultimately fell just a shot short from getting a result, losing 8-7.

The match finished with a Suffolk win 28-8 (shots: 180 - 113).

It was a superb result for Suffolk, but more importantly a fantastic team performance with every rink contributing. Across the day there had been some convincing wins and some impressive recoveries from game losing positions with Suffolk rinks showing great composure and team spirit. In what was a great overall display it's unfair to highlight any individual performances but congratulations to both S2 and S4 who won all of their games.

The Suffolk team can enjoy this win over the Christmas break but know they will have to maintain this performance level for the rest of the league campaign. Their next match is another difficult one, away against Essex at Braintree Leisure Centre on Sunday 20 January.

Neil Jolly (County Captain)

Suffolk – v – Hertfordshire

On Sunday 25 November Suffolk played their first ECCBA league match of the 2012/13 season, home against Hertfordshire at Bildeston village hall.

As the defending league champions Suffolk were looking to get this season's campaign off to a winning start. The Suffolk rinks selected to face Hertfordshire were:

Suffolk 1 (S1): Jim Goodrich, John Varden, Paul Daniels, James Rous

Suffolk 2 (S2): Sue Jones, Ellen Grube, Neil Tuckey, Sue Gilder

Suffolk 3 (S3): David Ford, Rita Runnacles, Andy Gilder, David Mittell

Suffolk 4 (S4): Sam Runnacles, Don Allum, Jon Jordan, Tom Runnacles

Suffolk 5 (S5): Peter Runnacles, Ralph Sadgrove, Mick Watkins, Steven Cain

Suffolk 6 (S6): Sue Davey, Sally Goodrich, Colin Fellingham, Neil Jolly

In the first session it was a mixed start for the Suffolk rinks. S5 got off to a flyer and were 7-0 up after just two ends. However they then got stuck on seven shots, it took until the penultimate until they scored again and also winning the last end saw them to a 12-4 win. S3 got off to a slow start and it wasn't until the sixth end that they took the lead by 5-3. The next end saw them increase their advantage to 6-3 and they then just clung on, losing single shots on the last two ends to win 6-5. S1 were also involved in a tight game, during which they were never behind. They took an early 3-0 lead, were then pegged back to 4-4 but won three of the last four ends to earn a 9-5 win. Just what was needed, a maximum six point start.

There was a similar start to the second session for Suffolk. Both S4 and S6 made decent starts, the better of which was by S4 as they didn't concede a shot over the first five ends to be 9-0 up. The second part of the game was more even but S4 held on to their lead to win 12-3. Meanwhile S6 were only 4-2 up after four ends. However they then took total control of their game, scoring thirteen unanswered shots on the remaining ends to ease away to a comfortable 17-2 win. S2 were involved in the closest game, a slow start saw them 3-0 behind which they pulled back to 4-4 after six ends. Unfortunately they lost two of the last three ends and the game 8-6.

The third session started well for S3 despite losing the first end they were 5-1 up after four ends. They then hit a rocky patch losing a couple of ends but recovered well with a five shot count on the penultimate end which secured the game, final score of 11-6. S5 were involved a tight game as shots were shared at the start and it wasn't until the seventh end when they had a lead, 7-4. They then conceded a two which left the game in the balance, but a great last end resulted in another 11-6 win. Lastly S1, they had got off to a good start but every time they took a lead, it was pegged back. Going into the last end they still held a 9-7 advantage but unfortunately they were unable to protect that and a good bowl by the opposition skip earned them a 9-9 draw.

The highlight of the fourth session was a resounding win for S4. Scoring six shots on the first end set the tone for the game. They proceeded to score a further four and five shot counts in the middle of the game on their way to a 20-2 win. Trying to keep up with them was S6, although they were struggling at 4-2 down after three ends. However they took complete control of their game scoring thirteen shots and conceding just two in winning 15-6. S2 completed the third Suffolk session win in a game where they were always leading. It was close at the start but scoring six unanswered shots in ends six to eight secured a healthy lead and a 10-4 win.

The penultimate session was Suffolk's worst of the day as disappointingly two of the three games were lost. The one win was a good performance again by S3 who dominated their game from the start. They were comfortably ahead 10-0 after five ends and were able to share the remaining ends to win 12-2. In the other games S1 just couldn't get secure an advantage in their game, although after five ends they were only a shot behind at 4-3. However they were only able to win one more end, in losing 8-4. S5 were involved in the closest game, a real see-saw encounter. They were 5-0 down and got it back to 5-5, then 7-6 up which was pegged back to 7-7. The last end reflected the tight game but unfortunately S5 conceded a single shot to lose 8-7.

The start of the final session saw S4 continue their impressive performance, as they raced away to an early 10-0 lead. They never looked back from that and ended their game as 17-3 winners. S6 had also got off to a reasonable start, 5-0 up but they were never able to build a healthy lead and the game was in doubt right until the final ends. However a good tactical last end saw them home by 8-5. In the other game S2 didn't make a good start and they were unable to recover from that. The closest they got was 7-4 behind but the final score was a 9-5 loss.

The match finished with a Suffolk win 27-9 (shots: 191 - 95).

It was a good result for Suffolk, a winning start in their first match but in parts a patchy performance. Congratulations should go to S3, S4 and S6 who won all of their games. Overall though, some inconsistent bowling had presented a spirited Hertfordshire team with too many opportunities and arguably they deserved a few more points from the day.

Suffolk have an immediate opportunity to improve on this performance and hopefully continue their winning start, as their next match is on Sunday 9 December, at Bildeston against Cambridgeshire.

Neil Jolly (County Captain)