



Norfolk give Kent the Blues!

Final Score: Norfolk 31 points Kent 9 points.

Played in the Hingham Sports & Social Centre, Hingham:



This was the first time that Kent had played Norfolk in many years; in the early days of the Inter County Championship there was a significant rivalry between the two sides as they fought for supremacy.

Session 1

Until this match Norfolk had dominated this group and so far the Kent Premier side had not really got out of first gear, the Kent players were searching for the form they know they have whilst knowing that this venue was going to be difficult, not least because Norfolk have recently won the ICC and built a very creative and highly motivated team. The first session set the scene for Kent as in the first 4 games Kent only took one result; Mike Doorey running out with a 19 - 11 win in the singles. Tim Rycraft in the singles lost by 7 - 19 and both pairs took a bloody nose with Nicky Bartlett & Rob Berry losing 8 - 19 and Linda Wyn and Richard Southby keeping it closer with a 14 - 7 shots defeat.

Session 1 finished

Bonus points (Kent perspective)

Norfolk 6 points 66 shots Kent 2 points 48 shots

Singles -4 shots

Pairs -18 shots

Session 2

This session started with Norfolk seeking to capitalise on their early start and Kent seeking to regain their lost territory. Despite playing with great spirit Norfolk held their nerve and won 2 games and drew a third. Best for the session was the Kent four of Allan Plowman, Jason Smiths, Derek Ford and Chris Bull who took a 13-12 win, the other Kent four of Andy Player, Bob Deane, Richard Stagg and Thomas Coles lost out by 1 shot losing 11 - 10. The triples had a tough time with Rob Ferguson, Tim Harwood and Gary Allard losing 7 - 16 whilst Alan Harwood, Cliff Henry & Jeff Vanns salvages a 11 - 11 draw.

Session 2 finished

Bonus points (Kent perspective)

Norfolk 11 points 116 shots Kent 5 points 89 shots

Triples - 9 shots and

Fours -1 shots

Session 3

Like the previous 2 matches Kent were very aware that the day was running away from them and a good last two sessions were required; the Kent singles did not perform in this session with both results going against Kent. Michael Doorey holding a creditable 12 - 14 defeat whilst Tim Rycraft took a battering not seen for many years losing by 23 shots to 4. Rob Berry and Nicky showed their class recording a 12 - 11 victory after taking a 3 on the last end. Linda Wynn and Richard Southby bowled well but lost to a stronger team on the day recording a 10 - 18 defeat.

Session 3 finished

Bonus points (Kent perspective)

Norfolk 21 points 183 shots

Kent 7 points 137 shots

Singles -25 shots

Pairs -21 shots

Session 4

It was difficult for Kent with such a big 3rd round defeat, however, with 12 more points to play for Kent started well with the Triples taking very strong early leads. However Norfolk held their

concentration and closed the gaps in an effort to defend their bonus points. In the end Jeff Vanns's triple could not hold Norfolk and lost with a 19 to 17 shots defeat, however, Gary Allard's triple were determined to take the fight to Norfolk and ran out 16 - 11 winners, despite this win they were disappointed as they had a huge lead half way through the game that was closed by the very experienced Simon Willies. Meanwhile the Fours were battling on although unfortunately for Kent whatever Thomas Cole's four tried didn't work and they lost 8 shots to 16. The other Kent four tried their best but also lost although they had a tighter match. Their final score was 7 - 14.

Session 4 finished

Norfolk 31 points 240 shots

Kent 9 points 1167 shots

Bonus points (Kent perspective)

Triples -12 shots

Fours -15 shots

Final Score: Norfolk 31 and Kent 9 Points

Conclusion

In the end this was a difficult day with Kent having lost 3 games out of 4. Kent are still in the running for qualification but know they have an uphill task with two games left to play. They will compete with Essex for the runner up spot and will need to turn their form to qualify.

The venue in Norfolk is fantastic and perfectly suited for competitive matches of this ilk, the Kent players loved the 'blue' carpets and enjoyed the pace and playability of the carpets.

1	Norfolk	119 points
2	Essex	78 points - 19 shot difference
3	Kent	78 points - 23 shot difference
4	Surrey	45 points

Kent Premier are away to Surrey on the 4th November and play Norfolk at home in the NLL venue in Monchelsea (Nr Maidstone) on the 26th November, anyone wishing to come along and see what a county game is all about are very welcome; battle commences from 10am.