



The Kent Premier team succumb to Norfolk in final group game!

Final Score: Kent 13 points Norfolk 27 points.

Played in the New Line Learning School, Boughton Monchelsea.



This was last competitive match for the Kent Premier side in this venue and was a key match for Kent. It was estimated that failure to score less than 300 points would relegate Kent in to the Consolation Tournament rather than the main event. Like most of this year's season the team was left wanting and fell short to a very strong Norfolk side. The final result was defeat for Kent and relegation to the consolation tournament.

Session 1

Norfolk had dominated the group and with this last match to play had been undefeated. Kent not only needed to beat them but needed an exceptional scoreline. Again, key players were missing and the Manager took the decision to try and switch the teams around in an effort to score a higher point tally. This meant that Thomas Coles and Chris Bull stood in the singles and took on the very strong Norfolk players. After a gallant effort the singles both lost; Thomas by 8 - 13 and Chris 10 - 19. The pairs faired better but also lost albeit very closely. Rob Berry and Richard Southby losing on their last end with a 12 - 14 scoreline; Michelle Fitzgerald and Tim Rycraft also lost out on the last end losing 9 - 10.

Session 1 finished

Bonus points (Kent perspective)

Norfolk 8 points 56 shots Kent 0 points 39 shots

Singles -14 shots

Pairs -3 shots

Session 2

This session started with Norfolk seeking to continue their initial dominance. Kent were desperate now and needed a good session.....Alan Harwood, Bob Deane, Jason Smith and Derek Ford just couldn't get find the consistency needed to beat their Norfolk counterparts and lost by 6 shots to 19. Kent's second four played of Andy Player, Cliff Henry, Danny Hogben and Mike Doorey had a much closer game and won the last end to nudge past the finishing line winning 9 shots to 8. The Kent triples saw the return of an old player, however this was not to be a dream return with Joshua Austin, Jeff Vanns and Richard Staggs losing by 7 shots to 18. Linda Wynn, Tim Harwood and Gary Allard ran out 11 - 6 victors meaning it was a split session.

Session 2 finished

Bonus points (Kent perspective)

Norfolk 12 points 107 shots Kent 4 points 72 shots

Triples - 6 shots and

Fours -10 shots

Session 3

It was a question of mustering some pride from the day as in reality Kent had already dropped too many points. The Kent singles started with promise; Thomas fighting to the very last bowl. He needed 4 on his last end to grab a draw....with nails being bitten Thomas took a confirmed 3 and had a measure for his 4th shot. Sadly the Umpire confirmed it was a Norfolk wood meaning he lost out by 1 shot. Chris Bull had a bad day losing 6 shots to 24.

The pairs faired much better with Rob Berry and Richard Southby reversing their first result winning on the last end by shot and taking a 15 - 14 victory. Michelle and Tim also reversed their morning result winning with a comfortable 18 - 7 victory. This meant that Kent took the Pairs bonus points.

Session 3 finished

Bonus points (Kent perspective)

Norfolk 18 points 163 shots

Kent 10 points 123 shots

Singles -33 shots

Pairs +9 shots

Session 4

Like the session before this was a series of games that for Kent were all about playing for pride; the Kent triples reversed their morning results with Joshua Austin, Jeff Vanns and Richard Stagg winning with a 17 - 9 score. Linda Wynn, Tim Harwood and Gary Allard also reversed their morning with an afternoon defeat, they lost in a close battle by 8 shots to 10. The Kent rinks struggled in this last session with both teams losing, Mike Doorey's four losing out by 3 shots to 9 and Derek Fords team losing by 6 shots to 18.

Session 4 finished

Norfolk 27 points 209 shots

Bonus points (Kent perspective)

Kent 13 points 157 shots

Triples 0 shot difference

Fours -28 shots

Final Score: Kent 13 & Norfolk 27 Points

Conclusion

In the end this was another difficult day for Kent; this team has lost 4 out of 6 group games only beating Surrey (home and away). On this basis the team deserves to be out of the main event and will start the rebuilding process immediately. Kent have entered the ICC Rinks tournament with Kent Premier being drawn in a local first round round robin taking on West Sussex and Surrey. The initial stages being held on Sunday 10th December in the excellent Way Valley venue.

The final table for the group stage was as follows:

1	Norfolk	167 points
2	Essex	124 points
3	Kent	112 points
4	Surrey	77 points

Kent Premier now waits to see who, where and when they will play in the ICC consolation cup.

The Kent A side are reaching the climax to their group, currently sitting in second place in a very tight group. Their group is a 3 way finish with Kent battling against West Sussex and Surrey for the top two place qualification into the main event. The Kent B side remains undefeated with the team due to play London on Sunday 10th December.