

Under 16 counties boys report, by Kevin Baker team coach.

The tournament format was four man bowling five games with a morning and an afternoon squad, Norfolk were on the afternoon squad with a 2 PM start. I arrived at Nuneaton early when the first squad were on their third game, I watched Yorkshire bowl an 890 game in which Jason Gelder bowled the high game of the tournament a 267, 9 in a row followed by a 9 and a missed spare. After the first squad Yorkshire were second on 3,891 pins, Lincolnshire were first after bowling a steady average of 795 to a score of 3,977.

The lane condition was quite long giving the opportunity for big scores but it was difficult to predict the break point so bowlers often left corner pins and there were some nasty splits.

The second squad started on time Norfolk's line up was Matthew Fidgett 203, Michael Nock 180, Liam Baker 206 and Matthew Giles 181, a 770 game alright but not really enough we needed to get more runs of strikes going. Our line up for the second game was Matthew Fidgett 257, Michael Nock 204, Liam Baker 194 and Jack Winter 211, a much better 866 game this is the pace we needed to keep going. Third game Matthew Fidgett 182, Jack Winter 164, Matthew Giles 174 and Liam Baker 225 a 745 unfortunately well off the pace. Both Surrey and Essex were ahead of us averaging 862 and 815 per game respectively, our average 793. We were not out of it by any means but we did need to get cracking.

On to our fourth game Matthew Fidgett 192, Michael Nock 170, Matthew Giles 146 and Liam Baker 212 a poor 720 game. The last game Matthew Fidgett 183, Michael Nock 211, Matthew Giles 198 and Liam Baker 202 a 794. This left us with a final position of 5th, Surrey won 4,131 ave 826, Hampshire 4,025 ave 805, Lincolnshire 3,977 ave 795, Essex 3,947 ave 789 and Norfolk 3,895 ave 779. I feel the team bowled OK but we just didn't get enough strike runs to stay with the pace. Matthew Fidgett appointed team captain bowled all 5 games to an average of 203.4. Liam also bowled all 5 averaging 207.8, Michael Nock bowled 4 averaging 191.2 as did Matthew Giles averaging 174.7. Jack Winter bowled 2 games averaging 187.5.