

BRITISH INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS PREMIER DIVISION

Warwickshire vs Essex

Essex travelled to Warwickshire in their penultimate game, hoping to secure enough points against a high-flying team. With a win from last season, we knew it would be a tough battle

Ladie's B started with Kelly Salmon who unfortunately had double trouble through her game lost the opener 2-3, next debutant Keeleigh White was up, looking nervous from the start Keeleigh lost the first leg but bounced back winning the next 3 legs on 40 for a 3-1 win for a LOM 19.12 average. The next 2 sets went Warwickshire's way with Rose Baldwin and Chloe Hawkins just not firing like they can, Karen Williams up next against Nina Bolt in what was a great game to watch with both ladies hitting 18 averages and going the distance with the Essex lady coming out the winner, Kayleigh Brown up for the draw looked comfortable on stage but was at the wrong end of the 3-2 scoreline. Overall scoreline 4-2 to the home team

Men's B coming off a good win against Dorset last month, started well with Matt 'The Rottweiler' Garrett kicking off with a MOM 27.00 average, this was quickly followed by wins for Darren Richardson who is showing the smooth darts we know he has and Brandon Western who had to fight hard for his 4-3 result. The following 2 sets went the way of the home side with both Simon Monk and Paul Marsh struggling to find the mark in unusual fashion. Danny McIntyre got Essex to the halfway mark with a 4-1 win in a solid performance and a 4-2 scoreline.

Martin Compton started the second half in a tough game which saw both players play below par but 'Compo' came out on top 4-1, this was again followed again with wins for Stuart Wicks and Matt Gordon giving the travelling side 7-2 lead. Liam Willis was another player who struggled on the stage and in the final leg could not find any form losing 4-3, James Wright bounced back picking up his first win in 3 matches. Last up Phil Brewster started well to take a 2-0 lead but was pegged back by his opponent and after 6 legs the match was levelled, both players started strong in the last leg trading scores but by the end of the match it came down to doubles which sadly for us went to the home side but with the men taking the session 8-4 this gave Essex an overnight scoreline of 10-8.

Ladie's A kicked off with Karen Breen taking the first leg with the darts but missed doubles in the second seemed to knock her back with her opponent claiming the game 3-1, an in-form Jade stepped up next, she scored very well and even registered an impressive 136 checkout in her 3-1, 23.48 win. Kerry Rudd dug in hard but again some missed doubles cost her dearly in another 3-1 defeat for Essex. Next to toe the oche was Donna Scherer, going on stage to the now familiar 'Scherer, Scherer' shout from the team. But in no time her opponent had taken the first leg in 14 darts, not to be deterred she hit back with a 13 darter – this set the tone for the next 2 legs which saw Donna the winner again 3-1 with LOM 25.40 average, just a note that this also included 13 missed darts at doubles. Wendy Collins followed, in previous months she has not

had the rub of the green, but she made amends with a well fought 3-2 win, Leanne Halls ended the group, although taking an early lead, she could not capitalise on loose darts from her opponent and lost 3-1, giving the girls a creditable draw.

The Men's A knew this was going to be a tough match with Warwickshire sitting high in the Division, but Steve Haggerty started the team off with a 4-3 win posting a 27.64 average, a strange game next from Phil Halls followed, his scoring put him in front of most legs, but the doubles eluded him meaning a 4-3 defeat. Aaron Gill faced a tough game with Premier top player and unbeaten Jamie Hughes, both players traded scores with Aaron taking a 3-2 lead – 6th leg Jamie missed 3 darts to draw level only for the Essex man to take out 117 to take a very good point 4-2. Jamie Peetoom went 2 nil down in his game but pulled it level only to see his opponent go it overdrive to take the victory 4-2. The next 2 games were great to watch from an Essex point of view – Keegan Brown stepped up with legs of 16,17,14 & 14 in a master class of scoring to win 4-0, 32.85. This was to be followed by in form Ben Adams registering his second 30 average in a row in his 4-0, 30.36 win. At the halfway stage Essex added to their lead 17-11.

The auror that is Craig Vickers started off with a superb 124 checkout but that was as far as his energy went as the ever-reliable Nigel Heydon pulled back a point for the home team 4-1. Shaun Fox came from the practise board not feeling it but it seemed the altitude of the stage cleared his mind as he eclipsed Mr Brown with 16,13,17 and 12 to take MOM with an unbelievable 34.55 and Premier Division top average. The following 3 games all went the way of the home side, Brad Halls played a very steady game, but his opponent never let him have a sniff checking out with every opportunity 4-1, Matt Good was always up against it, his low scoring against a multitude of Danny Lauby's 100's meant another 4-1 defeat. Joe Russell followed with a seesaw of a game, Joe going 2-0 down then reeled off 3 legs with an 11-darter thrown in, things looked good. This set would go down to the wire in the end with both players missing vital doubles, it went the way of the home team leaving the overall score at 17-18 to Essex. Darren Peetoom was up for the decider, taking an early 3-0 lead things again looked good but some loose darts meant the home team pulled 2 legs back, the pressure though was showing on the home player with 3 low scoring allowing the Essex player to take advantage and bring the win for Essex home and a 6-6 draw for the A team.

Our final game is at home at Chelmsford Social Club against Hampshire on 14th / 15th June, if you can come along and support the Ladies and Men of Essex !!!