

BRITISH INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS PREMIER DIVISION

ESSEX vs CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Cambridgeshire arrived at Chelmsford for the latest BICC Premier fixture, 4-points ahead of Essex in the overall table.

The **Ladies 'B'**, who've not had the best of seasons pulled off a fantastic result by beating the table leaders 4-2. Rayleigh's Charlotte Halls (18.11) won the first set 3-2, followed by Chelmsford's lady of the match Wendy Reader (18.75), also winning 3-2. Braintree's Lynn Kelly took the third set 3-1, before debutant, Rayleigh's Stephanie Hewson, sealed victory winning the sixth-set 3-2.

The **Men's 'B'** put their Lancashire disappointment behind them to produce a superb result against good opposition. Orsett's Michael McCombe (25.41) got the team off to a good start; Southend returnee Stephen Hardy lost out 4-2; Riverside's Sam Lepley won the 3rd-set, with Springfield's Shaun Walsh unlucky to lose out to Cambridgeshire's man of the match Stephen Roberts (26.64). Essex then won 3-sets on the bounce to put daylight between the teams; Colchester's Lee Woods (27.08) won 4-0 to claim the man of the match award; Southend's Michael Peel (25.37) also won 4-0; with Walton's Gavin Payne (25.88) victorious in the 7th-set. Both Walton's Darren O'Neill and Southend's Dave Solly were unlucky losers; Orsett's Liam Pender (26.37), Riverside's Barry Adlam (25.69) and Southend's Paul Marsh (26.24) wrapped up the 8-4 victory; giving Essex a 12-6 lead going into Sunday.

The **Ladies 'A'** stay top of the table despite dropping points in a fantastic drawn match. Rayleigh's Donna Gleed (22.14) got the team off to the best possible start; however Cambridgeshire took the next two-sets, Essex not winning a single leg. Clacton's Viv Dundon (23.61) remains unbeaten for 16 matches with a 3-1 win; Braintree's Stacey Ellis (24.64) claimed the lady of the match award with a brilliant 3-0 triumph which included a 150 checkout and secured the draw as Essex lost the final set.

The **Men's 'A'** lost the first 3-sets again for the second match running before Saffron Walden's Wayne Bloomfield (28.63) got Essex on the scoreboard and claiming the man of the match award; Brentwood's Steve Johnson (26.04) and Springfield's Wayne Gleed pulled Essex level at the halfway point of the match. Springfield's Phil Brewster lost out 4-3 before Essex rattled off five straight wins from Riverside's Rhys Hayden (27.82), Basildon's Phil Halls (27.94) and Ritchie Edhouse (28.23), Springfield's Darren Peetoom (26.89) and finally Romford's Shaun Lovett for an 8-4 victory.

The 26-13 win lifts Essex into 4th place 4-points behind our next opponents, Warwickshire in Coventry.