

BRITISH INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS PREMIER DIVISION

ESSEX vs CORNWALL

Essex hosted Cornwall looking at closing the gap with Yorkshire & Lancashire at the top of the table; Cornwall had other ideas in climbing the table to help them stay in the Premier Division.

Essex **Ladies 'B'** started with Chelmsford's Wendy Reader (15.34) winning 3-0 and claiming the lady of the match award; double trouble was Carol Pinfold's problem as she lost out 3-2; and Essex didn't win another leg going down 5-1.

The **Men's 'B'** needed to get Essex back into the match, and after four-sets it was two a-piece, with Basildon's Craig Vickers (25.18) and Tilbury's Michael McCombe (25.00) the B Team winners. Essex then took the next six-sets to win the match, with wins from man of the match, Southend's George Cressey (26.05); Rayleigh Rascals Mick Peel, Brightlingsea's Darren O'Neill (26.04); Tilbury's Liam Pender, Chelmsford's Andrew Kateley on his return to the team, and Springfield's Wayne Gleed. Robbie Turner (Springfield) won the final set to give the 'B' a well-deserved 9-3 victory and a 10-8 lead going into Sunday.

Kelvedon's Stacey Ellis (21.61) lay claim to the lady of the match award with a great 3-1 triumph to win the second-set, and Chelmsford's Sue Baker (20.87) sixth-set victory being Essex 'A's ladies two wins in a rare 2-4 loss.

So it was all level going into the men's match; Springfield's Alan Collin (27.39) won the opening-set 4-1; World professional qualifier Rhys Hayden was unlucky to lose out 3-4 before the Captain, Darren Peetoom (28.63) produced a 4-0 man of the match performance. Another of our Hull success's, Ritchie Edhouse, was so unlucky to be beaten 3-4. Essex won the next three-sets with wins from Southend's Paul Barham (24.00); Basildon's Phil Halls (25.89) and Riverside's Barry Adlam (28.19). Colchester's Eddie Gosling and Wayne Bloomfield both lost out 3-4 and 1-4 respectively. Colchester's Lee Woods secured at least a draw; George Cressey couldn't find the doubles which won him the match award on Saturday losing out 0-4; leaving Brentwood's Steve Johnson to win the match for the Men's 'A' 7-5 and the Weekend 22-17.

Essex entertain league leaders, Yorkshire next.