

BRITISH INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS PREMIER DIVISION

ESSEX vs DEVON

Newly promoted Devon was the visitors to Chelmsford Social Club for the second BICC Premier fixture of the season and gave Essex a superb test of character.

The **Ladies 'B'** fought out a 3-3 draw with 3-2 victories from Lynn Kelly (16.94) and Nicky Mynard (18.54); followed by lady of the match, Lauren Bloomfield (24.25) securing the draw.

The **Men's 'B'** continue their 14 match unbeaten run with a 9-3 triumph. Wayne Bloomfield (Clacton) returned to the team and won 4-3; Chelmsford's Andrew Kateley (31.81) put in a man of the match performance winning 4-0; Southend Ekco's Michael McCombe (30.36) won the 4th set 4-0; losing out was Eddie Gosling, Chris Gower and Liam Pender. Essex then turned the screw by winning all six set in the second half; Southend's Paul Marsh (27.62), Ritchie Edhouse (30.33) and Barry Lynn (25.45) all recording great wins, with Rayleigh Rascal's Michael Peel (26.69), Tony Osborne (Brightlingsea) and Robbie Turner (Springfield) giving the 'B's a 9-3 win to send them to the top of their league.

Going into Sunday with a 12-6 lead and the **Ladies 'A'** didn't disappoint against a very strong Devon ladies team. Chelmsford's Sue Baker (20.21) lay claim to the lady of the match with a 3-2 win; Southend's Donna Gleed (18.79) also won 3-2 and Sue Waterman (17.12) won 3-1 to give Essex a deserved draw.

The **Men's 'A'** had a mixed afternoon coming out level in a hard fought match. Essex started well winning the opening four sets with wins from Riversides' Barry Adlam (27.16), who laid claim to the man of the match on his 251st appearance; Brightlingsea's Scott Lawrie (27.08) winning 4-0 on his final appearance till next year; and Springfield's Wayne Gleed (26.03) and Craig Vickers (24.40). Essex then lost the next 3-sets before Riverside's Rhys Hayden (23.03) won 4-0. Devon took the next 3-sets and it was left to Southend's Stephen Hardy (26.37) to secure the draw.

Essex won the match 24-15 which places them 3rd in the promotional table.

Essex travel to Cornwall next at the end of October and then away again at the end of November to Yorkshire.