

BRITISH INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

PREMIER DIVISION

ESSEX VS GLAMORGAN

Essex started their Inter County season with a home match against Glamorgan. The Ladies 'B' fixture started the weekend off and from the moment Chelmsford's Sally Grainger closed the first set out Essex took control. It was the Braintree trio of Lynn Kelly Lady of the match Lucy Ward-Geddes and Carol Pinfold who continued the Essex momentum which was finished off by Chelmsford's Nicky Mynard to give Essex a 5-1 lead.

If the Essex Ladies had stamped their authority on proceedings then their male counterparts were not to be outdone. Southend's Paul Barham (76.29), Thurrock's Mick McCombe (72.72) and Maldon's Kevin Cottis (76.26) started the ball rolling before Essex really pushed the accelerator. Springfield's Phil Brewster (92.01), Steve Smith (Hockley) (79.77), Man of the match Southend's Paul Marsh (93.75) and debutant Richard Howson (Rainham) (77.73) hit seven sets without reply. Glamorgan started a fight back winning consecutive sets before Essex once again started hitting decisive doubles. Gary Phipps (Hockley) (78.18), Springfield's Wayne Gleed (65.40) and Riverside's Martin Compton (73.92) saw Essex home to a comfortable 10-2 victory and an overnight 15-3 lead.

The Sunday started with Essex Ladies 'A' team receiving their plaques for winning the Premier Division last season. Once the action was underway it didn't take long to see why they won the division last season as Southend's Sue Waterman (67.80) overcame Michelle Webber (64.86) in a high class encounter. Viv Dundon (Clacton) eased home 3-0 before Braintree's Amanda Dodd squeezed past Rhian Edwards; however it was left to Southend's Donna Russell to secure a 4-2 win.

Last season Essex Mens 'A' team couldn't buy a win, however this season they opened their account with an impressive 9-3 win. The Premier Division has moved their Mens 'A' matches to the best of 7 legs and this seems to have suited Essex. Springfield's Mick Peel (91.59) got Essex underway before Paul Marsh (73.02) doubled the lead. Essex of old would have started to crumble when Colchester's Coen Wicamp (73.68) lost out to Tony Bradley (98.22) instead they just bounced back and wins for Wicamps Colchester team mate Jamie Robinson (87.12) and Brentwood's Steve Johnson (77.46) put Essex 4-1 ahead. Glamorgan responded with back to back wins before Essex once again hit the overdrive button. Harwich's Alan Collins (72.99) and Basildon's Dave Orton (64.46) both won 4-1 whilst Springfield's Essex Captain Darren Peetoom (76.99) and Colchester's Eddie Gosling (74.13) picked up 4-2 wins and with Hockley's John McFall (76.98) taking the last leg of his match Essex had picked up the last five sets to gain a massive 28-8 victory.