

ESSEX SHARE POINTS!

Essex's visit to the Penyardarren Social Club in Merthyr Tydfil was a tough match, as the 'B' teams had a difficult Saturday and the 'A' teams a hard fought Sunday. **Ladies 'B'**: Sheila Busby got Essex of to a winning start, but this was a false start as Jenny Powell lost out 3-2, followed by a 3-1 debut defeat for Wendy Reader to Glamorgan's lady of the match, Michelle Lloyd. Lynn Kelly could find a double and lost 3-0, and Nicky Bradley lost out 3-1 missing vital doubles in the 4th leg. Stacey Ellis was Essex's lady of the match winning 3-1 with a 17.70 average. 4-2 down going into the **Men's 'B'**, Southend's Paul Marsh won the opening set 3-2; Michael McCombe (Cavaliers) won his first man of the match award, winning 3-1 with a 28.78 average. Springfield's Tim Franklin and Allan Collins were both beaten as Essex fell two behind once again; Riverside's Martin Compton won the 5th set 3-1 and then Essex lost the next three sets, Eddie Gosling (Colchester) halted the decline with a 3-1 victory, and then the Rayleigh Cavaliers Shaun Walsh levelled the men's match with a 3-1 win. The final two set were lost as Saturday ended with Essex 7-11 down and it all to do the next day. **Ladies 'A'**: Donna Russell (22.11) played well in a superb opening game, losing out 3-1 to Nikki O'Donovan (22.94) who was lady of the match for Glamorgan. Sue Condon must love playing Glamorgan as she won her fourth consecutive lady of the match award with a 3-2 victory against Rhian Edwards with a 22.27 average. Amanda Dodd lost out 3-1, before Carol Pinfold got Essex level again. Viv Dundon (21.78) won 3-0 and winning the match for Essex 4-2 was Sue Baker with a 3-0 triumph. **Men's 'A'**: Rayleigh Cavaliers Steve Smith (25.30) won the opening game 4-3, however Essex lost the next three sets from Gary Phipps (Cavaliers), Richard Howson (Springfield) and Paul Barham (Southend); Howson (27.37) suffered his first defeat for Essex against Glamorgan's man of the match Wayne Warren (31.31). Colchester's Jamie Robinson won the 5th set 4-1, John McFall (Cavaliers) then lost out and Essex found themselves 4-2 down. Essex needing all the remaining six sets for the win started well as Springfield's Phil Brewster won 4-0, followed by Brentwood's Steve Johnson (26.46) winning 4-2 and the man of the match award. Captain Darren Peetoom (26.59) was unlucky losing out 4-2; Shaun Walsh (25.55) replaced the injured Phil Halls and won 4-2 on his 100th appearance for the county. Winning the final two sets were Riverside's Barry Adlam (25.98) and Walton's Scott Lawrie (26.42) to give Essex a well-earned draw.