

# **BRITISH INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP**

## **PREMIER DIVISION**

### **ESSEX VS HAMPSHIRE**

Essex entertained Hampshire in the latest BICC match. At the start of the weekend both teams had the same number of points so a close match up was expected, and for much of the match this was to be the case. The Ladies 'B' match ended all square at three sets apiece with the Essex wins coming from Chelmsford's maximum hitting Julie Vickers together with the Braintree duo of Lynn Kelly and Lady of the Match Jenny Powell.

Essex started slowly in the Mens 'B' match as a combination of inconsistent scoring, missed doubles and clinical Hampshire finishing meant Essex still were not on the scoreboard after four sets. Riverside's Dave Solly (24.25) used all of his experience to scramble the fifth set before Southend's Man of the Match Mick Peel (27.63) edged the sixth set in the deciding leg. Hampshire however looked to be in total control as they won the next two sets to go into a 6-2 lead, but the Essex rearguard started to dig deep. Rayleigh Cavaliers Shaun Walsh (25.77) came from 2-0 down to win his match and this was quickly followed by Riverside's Rob Caton (22.97) digging out another deciding leg victory. The final two sets were shared with Walton's Nick Groves (24.60) picking up the Essex win.

For the past few years Essex Ladies 'A' team have been a model of consistency and this match was to be no different. Rayleigh's Donna Russell (21.67) started slowly but then found another gear picking off the last two legs in 21 and 17 darts. Braintree's Carol Pinfold (18.20) did little wrong other than find an in form Wendy Reindstatler (22.77) in her way. However from this point it was all Essex, Braintree's young sensation Stacey Ellis (17.08) won the next set 3-0 as did the maximum hitting Lady of the Match Clacton's Viv Dundon (21.78). Braintree's Amanda Dodd (19.36) picked off the fifth set before Rayleigh's Sue Condon (17.98) rounded an Essex 5-1 victory off with a final leg win.

Where it had been Hampshire who had picked off the vital doubles in the Mens 'B' match it was Essex who returned the compliment in the Mens 'A' match. Riverside's Barry Adlam (24.36), Brentwood's maximum hitting Man of the Match Steve Johnson (26.91), Springfield's Richie Howson (25.91) and the ever steady double maximum hitting Eddie Gosling (23.79) (Colchester) pushed Essex into an early 4-1 lead.

Essex Captain Darren Peetoom (25.11) and his Springfield team mate Phil Brewster (26.16) both had 4-2 wins and when Rayleigh Cavaliers Mark Landers (23.70) and Basildon's Phil Halls (25.67), whose son Bradley had earlier in the day received a call up to the England Youth team, won the final two sets Essex had turned a Saturday deficit of 10-8 into a 21-15 victory.