

BRITISH INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS
PREMIER DIVISION

HAMPSHIRE vs ESSEX

Essex travelled to Bitterne Park Social Club, for what could be the last BICC fixture of the season due to the Coronavirus.

It was not a great start, as the **Ladies 'B'** found themselves 4-0 down before registering a win; Kerry Rudd and Tracey Newman lost out 3-0, Karen Breen and Carol Pinfold lost out 3-2 in closely fought games, before Braintree's Ann Farmer (16.98) won the fifth set 3-1, however that was it as Dawn Kennedy lost the final set 3-1.

The **Men's 'B'** fared much better winning 7-5, with Michael Hancock's (24.36) winning the opening set 4-1; Southend's Paul Barham on his return to the team lost 4-0, with John Costigan (25.06) pulled off a 4-2 triumph following food poisoning a couple of days prior. Chelmsford's Simon Monk (20.96) won 4-2, Bradley Halls suffered his first defeat of the season losing out 4-2, before Brightlingsea's Tony Osborne (23.50) registered his first win of the season winning 4-3. Kelvedon's Danny McIntyre (28.24) was in superb form winning 4-2 and lay claim to the man of the match award. Rayleigh Rascals Lennie Holmes (21.43) won 4-3; Alan Collins lost out 4-1 followed by his Brightlingsea teammate, Allan Mathieson (28.23) winning 4-2. Basildon's Malcolm Clark missing vital doubles and went down 4-0 and Adam Howard (Cressing) also suffered double trouble and lost out 4-1. Essex found themselves 10-5 down going into Sunday's matches.

The **Ladies 'A'** started off with a 3-2 victory for Springfield's Donna Gleed (20.05), however fortunes tumbled as Wendy Collins, Stacey Ellis, Lynn Kelly and Leanne Peetoom all lost out 3-1, and Pauline Donat lost out 3-0 with a 22+ average, as the ladies lost 5-1.

Chelmsford's Andrew Kateley (29.08) winning 4-1 got the **Men's 'A'** off to a winning start; Bradley Halls promoted to the 'A' was beaten 4-3 in a great game, before Brentwood's Steve Johnson (33.23) winning 4-2 claimed the man of the match award; Collier Row's Jamie Peetoom (26.16) continued his good perform winning 4-3 in another tight contest. Phil Halls had double trouble losing out 4-2; Collier Row's Joe Russel (25.05) won 4-0 and Tilbury's Richie Howson (27.56) won 4-3 in a titanic tussle giving Essex a 5-2 lead. However, Essex lost the next three-sets with Darren Peetoom losing 4-3; Ben Adams losing 4-2 and Craig Vickers losing 4-2. Cressing's Steve Haggerty (28.06) won 4-1 to give the 'A' team the draw, as Phil Brewster lost the final-set 4-1.

Therefore, a disappointing 24-15 defeat and with Yorkshire next followed by an away trip to Devon, premier survival will go down to the wire; but will the season conclude due to COVID-19.