

BRITISH INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

PREMIER DIVISION

ESSEX VS KENT

Essex welcomed local rivals Kent to Chelmsford Social Club, for the second Rileys Inter County Championship Premier Division match of the season, for what looked on paper to be an even affair.

The resurgence of the Ladies 'B' team has been partly down to the inclusion of two new players into the Ladies Superleague system Donna Russell and Nicky Bradley who both continued in their winning ways. Chelmsford's Sally Grainger (60.69) also made it two out of two before Braintree's Lynn Kelly returned to winning ways with a hard fought 3-2 win and in doing so pushing Essex to the top of the Ladies 'B' table.

Last month I berated the quality of performance from the Mens 'B', this month I can only applaud their attitude and commitment towards putting their previous performance behind them. Colchester's Jamie Robinson (75.18) and Harwich's new dad Simon Cook (83.76) both had ton plus checkouts in losing 3-2. The standard of darts continued to impress as Springfield's Wayne Gleed (81.57) Hockley's Man of the Match Darrell Claydon (81.60) and his team mate Shaun Walsh (78.57) pushed Essex into the lead. Riverside's Martin Compton (74.85) and Basildon's Phil Halls (81.57) were both winners as Kent battled back. With the score sitting at five sets apiece Cressings former Kent player Rob Turner (65.85) and Galleywood's Andy Kateley (78.93) both held their nerve in winning their sets 3-2 and in doing so edging Essex over the line 7-5.

With Essex 11-7 ahead overnight the Essex Ladies 'A' put the weekend out of sight. A tense first set saw Chelmsford's Wendy Johnson edge home 3-2, but from then on Essex put their foot to the floor, Braintree's Sue Waterman (73.62), who picked up her second consecutive Lady of the Match award, and Clacton's maximum hitting England International Viv Dundon (65.34) both eased home 3-0. Clacton's Sheila Busby picked up the prize scalp of Tricia Wright 3-2 before Braintree's Amanda Dodd pushed Essex into a 5-0 lead. The final set went the way of Kent as their captain but Essex girl Sally Rose – formerly Dowell – eased past Lucy Ward-Geddes 3-0.

The Essex Mens 'A' team were another to brush away their poor performance in Glamorgan. Adrian Genery (73.83) (Harwich) hit his third maximum of the campaign on the way to a 3-2 victory before Riverside's Barry Adlam (96.99) produced a Man of the match performance in overcoming Clive Barden (89.25) 3-2. Further wins for Colchester's Eddie Gosling (90.96) and Springfield's Essex Captain Darren Peetoom (76.35) kept Essex in the hunt for another victory. Kent's resilience however meant that despite Colchester's Coen Wicamp (80.04) hitting a maximum on the way to a 3-1 win it only drew the scores level at 5-5. It was left to two Harwich players to conclude the weekend, Alan Collins (84.27) hit a maximum but lost out to Paul Dawkins (80.73) before Peter Barton (63.42) held his nerve in a tense final set to leave honours even in the Mens 'A' but give Essex a comfortable 22-14 victory.