

BRITISH INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP PREMIER DIVISION

ESSEX VS KENT

Essex welcomed Kent for the second fixture in the British Darts Organisations British Inter County Championship. Essex needed a good performance following last month's Glamorgan result; with Men's team manager away in Canada on English duty, Dave Powell stepped in to assist.

The Ladies 'B' match was dominated by Essex early on with Carol Pinfold (17.59) taking the first set and the match award; Sheila Busby lost out in the second set, but both Wendy Reader and Lynn Kelly won three straight. Despite good darts and a maximum, Nicky Mynard was unlucky to lose out 2-3; as was Karen Breen in the final set, therefore sharing 3-points apiece.

The Men's 'B' match started with Essex taking the first four sets, and dropping only 3-legs; Sam Lepley (25.36), John Costigan and Alan Collins all winning 4-1, followed by man of the match, Bryan Margerison (27.83), winning 4-0 with a maximum scored. High scoring Michael McCombe lost-out 3-4 in a close fought contest; Wayne Bloomfield with a 160 in the 3rd-leg won 4-1 giving Essex leading 5-1 at the halfway stage. Rhys Hayden lost-out on his senior debut; Shaun Lovett (25.69) won 4-0 with a 180 hit; Darrell Claydon lost out 3-4 in the next set. However, Essex took the last three sets from Ritchie Edhouse (25.37) with two maximums, Darren O'Neill and Alan Curri van completing a 9-3 victory.

With Essex leading 12-6 over night and the Ladies 'A' with a point to prove, raced into a 5-0 lead with wins from lady of the match Donna Russell (22.43), Sue Condon (19.68), Sue Baker (19.07), Viv Dundon (18.11) and Amanda Dodd (20.68) plus a 180. Stacey Ellis lost out in the final set to Kent's Sally Rose (21.42).

The Men's 'A' match saw Essex dominate early on, this was followed by a strong Kent recovery with Kent taking the final three sets to secure the draw. Early wins for Bryan Margerison promoted to the 'A' from Saturday and Eddie Gosling (25.28) who was promoted from the last month, scoring two maximums. Mick Peel couldn't follow last month's award winning performance, losing out 2-4; Wayne Gleed (27.08) won 4-0 including a 180; the Springfield pair of James Allison and Phil Brewster played well but came up against Kent's best two players on the day, Pip Blackwell (29.70) and Peter Mitchell (29.04); this left the match level at the halfway point. Craig Vickers won the 7th set with a 102 check out in the first leg; Liam Pender (26.37) beat Kent's captain Steve Collins 4-3 in a superb final leg; the next set was won by man of the match Steve Johnson (27.35) who was two-nil down before taking out a 151 finish in the 3rd leg and taking the his game 4-2. Unfortunately that was Essex's last set win; this was despite all 3-sets being lost 3-4 from Robbie Turner, Darren Peetoom and Paul Marsh. At the end of the day, Essex deserved their 26-13 victory.