

RILEYS INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

PREMIER DIVISION

YORKSHIRE VS ESSEX

Essex made the trip north to take on last seasons champions and this seasons league leaders Yorkshire. In a closely contested Ladies 'B' match Essex were 3-2 ahead with wins for Chelmsford's Lady of the match Sally Grainger, Clacton's Karen Breen and Southend's unbeaten Nicky Bradley. In the final set Braintree's Lynn Kelly battled hard and despite having the higher average lost out 3-2 to Pat Mortimer, leaving the final score 3-3.

The Mens 'B' match was equally evenly contested as wins for Riverside's man of the match and maximum hitting Martin Compton (80.91), Southend's Paul Barham (76.26), Springfield's maximum hitting Andy Burmby (79.11), Galleywood's Andy Kateley (67.68) and Colchester's Paul Walker (70.44) pushed Essex into a 5-4 lead, however despite the last two sets going the distance it was Yorkshire who prevailed taking the match 7-5 and in doing so leaving Essex to trail 10-8 overnight.

Sunday saw both 'A' teams go head to head and once again with the ladies it was to be evenly contested. Braintree's Sue Waterman continued her winning ways with a 3-1 win and she was joined by Southend's Donna Russell with her first 'A' team win against the evergreen Janice Lambert. Once again it was left to Clacton's England International Viv Dundon (66.30) to secure a 3-3 draw leaving the outcome of the weekend down to the Mens 'A' teams.

Yorkshire boasted of four players in the previous weeks World Professional Championships and ultimately it was this experience that was to count. The overall team averages for this match showed the difference between the two teams. Essex produced a respectable 78.87 whilst Yorkshire came in at 81.45.

Wins for Colchester's Coen Wicamp (86.19) who included a 171 and Harwich's Simon Cook (73.92) kept Essex in the game early on; however the major turning point came when Hockley's Mark Landers (84.15) took on Scott Waites (85.86). The match was full of quality with Landers hitting a 121 checkout for a twelve dart leg to level the set at two apiece; however it was Waites who prevailed hitting three maximums in his 3-2 win. Harwich's Alan Collins (78.48) hit a maximum in continuing his winning ways but despite maximums for Colchester's Eddie Gosling and Springfield's Darren Peetoom it was Yorkshire who proved too strong on the day winning 9-3 to produce an overall scoreline of Yorkshire 22 Essex 14.