

BRITISH INTERCOUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

PREMIER DIVISION

CAMBRIDGESHIRE VS ESSEX

Essex made the short trip up the M11 to face Cambridgeshire in the final Inter County match of the season. As is normally the case, Cambridgeshire are a tough nut to crack on their own board, and this weekend was to prove no different. Essex Ladies 'B' team can only be pleased that the season has now finished. The start of the season had looked as bright as they started with an impressive win against Glamorgan; however this latest 4-2 defeat at the hands of Cambridgeshire left them with just that one win to look back on. The Braintree pair of Lynn Kelly and lady of the match Wendy Johnson the Essex winners. In comparison their mens counterparts can look back on a season of what ifs. Heavy defeats at the hands of Cheshire and Yorkshire were the only blemishes on an impressive season which could well have ended up with some reward. There was a strong Harwich influence in the 7-5 victory, as wins for Kevin Edwards (75.75); Simon Cook (71.58) and Peter Barton (76.41) supplied the backbone to an otherwise indifferent display. Hockley's Shaun Walsh (63.57) and Chelmsford's Andy Kateley (72.87) provided early wins. Cressings Rob Turner (72.72) was a 3-0 winner before Springfield's Andy Burmby (83.01) produced a man of the match performance to see Essex past the post.

Cambridgeshire had ambitions of winning the Ladies 'A' league, but they hadn't reckoned on an impressive Essex performance. Witham's Lady of the match Carol Pinfold got Essex off to the perfect start, Clacton's Viv Dundon edged Essex 2-1 ahead before impressive late wins for the Braintree duo of Amanda Dodd and Lucy Ward-Geddes gave Essex a 4-2 win. The mens 'A' fixture swayed one way and then the other before both teams had to settle for a draw. Springfield's Darren Peetoom (78.90), Harwich flyer Scott Lawrie (84.18) and Basildon's man of the match Dave Orton (90.18) pulled Essex from 2-0 down to 3-2 ahead. Southend sensation Mick Peel (73.14) levelled the scoreline at 4-4 before the best match of the weekend unfolded. Colchester's Eddie Gosling averaged just on 100 but was blown away by former World Champion Martin Adams (107.37) whose victory ensured him the overall top spot in the Inter County Championship averages.

Hockley's Jimmy Allison (85.83) and Colchester's Coen Wiekamp (82.77) then produced the wins required to ensure Essex a share of the 'A' team spoils and an overall 19-17 victory.