

BRITISH INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS PREMIER DIVISION

CAMBRIDGESHIRE vs ESSEX

Essex travelled to the GER Club in March Cambridgeshire for the 7th BICC fixture of the season with the view to recapture 3rd spot in the overall table.

The **Ladies 'B'** continue to struggle for consistency and lost out 5-1 with Kelvedon's Lynn Kelly the only victor; Chelmsford's Wendy Reader was unlucky to lose out 3-2.

A much changed **Men's 'B'** produced a superb result against good opposition; Springfield's Shaun Walsh got Essex off to a great start with a 4-1 win; Tilbury's Chris Gower made his senior debut and although losing out 4-2 will soak up the experience before representing England Youth in Wales at the British Internationals. Colchester's Wayne Bloomfield (25.47) and Tilbury's Michael McCombe gave Essex a two-set advantage. Chelmsford's Andrew Kateley (27.22) victory was sandwiched between two defeats by Brightlingsea's Tony Osborne and Southend's Paul Marsh. Essex took the final five-set for a 9-3 victory; Brightlingsea's youth star, Joe Twinn (26.03) on his debut rattled off a 4-0 win; Witham's Barry Lynn (28.63) returned to the team and produced a man of the match performance, also winning 4-0; Tilbury's Liam Pender won 4-1, Basildon's Craig Vickers (25.63) and Springfield's Wayne Gleed complete Essex triumph, both winning 4-3.

This gave Essex a 10-8 lead going into Sunday.

The **Ladies 'A'** drew for the third game on the trot with Southend's Sue Waterman (19.79) getting the team off to the best possible start; however Cambridgeshire took the next two-sets with Kelvedon's Stacey Ellis and Amanda Dodd missing vital doubles. Southend's Steph Hewson (18.42) returned to the 'A' team and pulled Essex level winning 3-1. Chelmsford's Sue Baker lost out to England's Claire Ball before Southend's Donna Gleed (21.49) secured the draw with a lady of the match 3-1 victory.

The county wish Essex Captain Darren Peetoom the best of luck in the up and coming British Internationals in Wales and it was Darren (26.80) that got the **Men's 'A'** off to a winning start with a 4-3 victory. Brightlingsea's Darren O'Neill was unlucky to lose out 4-3 before Walton's Scott Lawrie (25.05) produced a 4-0 win. Riverside's Rhys Hayden lost a close battle 4-2; Southend's Stephen Hardy won 4-3 and Brentwood's Steve Johnson extended Essex's lead to 4-2 at the halfway stage. The second half was shared with Alan Collins, Barry Adlam and Phil Hall's all losing 4-1; Phil losing out to Cambridgeshire's man of the match, Martin Adams. The Essex victors was Colchester's Eddie Gosling, Rayleigh Rascal's Micky Peel (28.63) making claim to the man of the match; and finally Southend's Paul Barham (28.41) for a 7-5 win.

The 23-15 win lifts Essex into 3rd place; and with a busy month with games against Lincolnshire away and Warwickshire at Chelmsford to finish our season in April.