

BRITISH INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS PREMIER DIVISION

ESSEX vs CAMBRIDGESHIRE

After the heroic's at Wigan last month, Essex came crashing down to the ground as Cambridgeshire **Ladies 'B'** took all six-sets, giving Essex an up-hill task to get a result out of the weekend.

The **Men's 'B'** was superb winning 9-3 with another 26+ team average to pull Essex level going into Sunday. It just wasn't ladies day as the girl's lost five-sets 3-1 and the last set 3-0 as Cambridgeshire's Claire Brookin (25.47) won the match award. The men set about playing catch-up and maintaining their lead at the top of the 'B' Section. Michael McCombe (Southend Ekco) won the opening set 4-0; Chelmsford's Andrew Kateley (29.40) lay claim to the match award early-on and Rayleigh Rascal's Lennie Holmes (25.48) made it 3-0; team-mate Dave Solly was out of sorts losing out before Essex took complete control taking the next six-sets; there was wins from Riverside's Barry Adlam (25.24); Springfield's Phil Brewster (29.09); Rayleigh Rascal's Mick Peel (27.61); Southend Ekco's Shaun Walsh (24.81); Southend's Paul Barham (27.49) and Brightlingsea's Scott Lawrie (28.63). Wayne Bloomfield (Clacton) and Tony Osborne (Brightlingsea) missed vital doubles, both going down 4-2.

Sunday started well, as the **Ladies 'A'** won the opening two-sets from Donna Gleed (21.51) and Sue Baker (22.17); however Cambridgeshire had other ideas and fought back well to win the ladies match 4-2.

The **Men's 'A'** had to win to save the weekend and struggled to get a hold on the games with Basildon's Phil Halls and Springfield's Robbie Turner both losing out 4-3. Southend's Stephen Hardy (23.11) got Essex's first point; but Springfield's Craig Vickers then lost the fourth set 4-3. Mick Peel (27.00) beat Martin Adams 4-3 to change Essex's luck and Essex won the next four-sets to put Essex back in-front with wins from Southend's Paul Marsh (28.63); Brightlingsea's Alan Collin (23.03); Southend's Paul Barham (27.87) and Springfield's Darren Peetoom (27.70). Unfortunately for Essex they lost the final three-sets and the weekend 22-17 which drop's Essex down to third place in the overall table.

Warwickshire away and Lincolnshire Home this month will complete the season.

I would like to add my congratulations to Darren Peetoom on retaining his England place for the up and coming British Internationals.