

BRITISH INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS PREMIER DIVISION

ESSEX Vs CHESHIRE

Cheshire was our opponents at Chelmsford for the January BICC fixture, and Essex was determined to put behind them the disappointment of Yorkshire prior to Christmas.

Lyn Kelly (Braintree) got the **Ladies 'B'** off to a winning start, Chelmsford's Wendy Reader lost out in the second set; followed by a lady of the match performance from Braintree's Carol Pinfold (18.90) to restore Essex's advantage on her 100th appearance and possibly her last for a while. Unfortunately that was the Ladies 'B' last success, losing 2-4.

The **Men's 'B'** only dropped 4-legs in the first five sets, with 4-nil wins from Michael Peel (Southend), Barry Adlam (Riverside) and Shaun Walsh (Springfield); followed by Darren O'Neill (Walton) winning 4-2 and Riverside's Sam Lepley (28.88), also by a 4-2 score line, claiming the man of the match award. Bradley Halls (Basildon) made his long awaited senior debut, but lost out. Rhys Hayden (Riverside), Romford's Shaun Lovett (26.83), Michael McCombe (Orsett) and Gavin Payne (Walton) all recorded decent victories; Craig Vickers (Basildon) was unlucky to lose out 3-4; before Paul Marsh (Southend) won the last set to give the Men's 'B' a glorious 10-2 win.

The **Ladies 'A'** return to the top of the table with a superb 5-1 win; Clacton's Viv Dundon (18.48) got the team off to a great start, with Rayleigh's Sue Condon (20.31) claiming the lady of the match award; Donna Gleed (Rayleigh) had darts in all 3-legs against Anastasia Dobromyslova however lost out 0-3; Braintree's Stacey Ellis (19.42) won 3-1; Sue Baker (Chelmsford) also won 3-1 and Braintree's Amanda Dodd (19.23) won 3-2 to seal the win and top spot.

The **Men's 'A'** got off to a great start winning the first three-sets; captain Darren Peetoom (27.08) winning 4-0; Saffron Walden's Wayne Bloomfield (25.82) battling out a 4-3 victory; Brentwood's Steve Johnson (30.36) taking another man of the match award with a great 4-0 triumph. Springfield's Alan Collins lost out 3-4 before Colchester's Eddie Gosling (26.94) fought out a 4-3 win which included three 180's and two ton plus checkouts; Walton's Bryan Margerison continued his unbeaten run with a 4-2 win; Liam Pender (Orsett) and Wayne Gleed (Springfield) both lost out, Liam to Cheshire's man of the match, Tony Martin (27.61). Springfield's Phil Brewster (28.16) ensured the draw, before Basildon Q-Ball's Ritchie Edhouse (29.91) winning 4-0 to give Essex 'A' a well-deserved win. Phil Halls (Basildon) and Robbie Turner (Springfield) couldn't add to the score.

The 27-12 victory keeps Essex in-touch with their next opponents, Lancashire.