

BRITISH INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS **PREMIER DIVISION**

CORNWALL VS ESSEX

After a seven and half hour average journey to St Austell, Essex came out of Saturday in the lead against a resilient Cornwall team.

The **Ladies ‘B’** fought out a 3-3 draw with Carol Pinfold (16.89) claiming the lady of the match with a 3-0 victory in set-2; Charlotte Halls recorded a gritty 3-2 win and winning 3-0, Pauline Donat got the ladies their third consecutive draw.

The **Men’s ‘B’** continue their 15 match unbeaten run with an 8-4 triumph. Southend’s Ritchie Edhouse (26.37) won 4-0 to claim the man of the match award in set-1; George Cressey (Springfield) had double trouble in the 7th leg losing out 4-3; Wayne Bloomfield (Clacton) won 4-1; the Brightlingsea’s Bryan Margerison also missed vita doubles going down 4-2. Southend’s Paul Marsh fought out a 4-3 win and Brightlingsea’s Tony Osborne (25.25) won 4-1 to give Essex a 2-set advantage. Essex won the next 3-sets with wins from Michael Peel (Rayleigh Rascals) 4-1; Southend’s Ekco’s Michael McCombe (26.37) won 4-0 and shares top average of the day with Edhouse; and Andrew Kateley (Chelmsford) winning 4-2 ensured the win. Cornwall made a mini-revival winning the next two sets against Robbie Turner (Springfield) 4-2 and Liam Pender (Tilbury) 4-3. The final set was won by Lennie Holmes (Rayleigh Rascals) 4-0 on his debut.

Going into Sunday with an 11-7 lead and the **Ladies ‘A’** struggled to get a hold of the match against a superb Cornwall team and soon found themselves 5-0 down; and Southend’s Donna Gleed (18.99) winning the final set 3-1 to stop a whitewash.

Now the match was all level at 12-12, the **Men’s ‘A’** put in a fantastic performance, considering a number of players missing and two players having to be promoted from Saturday. Essex started well winning the opening three sets with wins from Brightlingsea’s Darren O’Neill (26.11) 4-3; Alan Collins (30.49) 4-2 to claim the man of the match award, and Springfield’s Craig Vickers (27.46) also 4-2. Cornwall drew level taking the next three set from Wayne Gleed (Springfield), Steve Johnson (Brentwood) and Tony Osborne (Brightlingsea). Southend’s Paul Barham (26.51) got Essex back on-track winning 4-1, followed by a 4-1 victory from the captain Darren Peetoom (28.01). Eddie Gosling (Colchester) lost out 4-3 before Essex wrapped up the win with Phil Halls (Basildon) 4-2, Riverside’s Barry Adlam (26.02) 4-3 and Ritchie Edhouse (27.94) 4-2.

Essex win 23-16 and move up to second in the promotional table and the Men’s ‘B’ remain a point clear of Yorkshire with Essex visiting Yorkshire next.