

BRITISH INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS
PREMIER DIVISION

ESSEX vs CORNWALL

Chelmsford Social Club hosted Essex vs. Cornwall in the latest BICC fixture, which saw the home team win 23-16 and move out of the relegation zone for the first time this season.

The **Ladies 'B'** fought hard but lost the opening two-set 3-2 from Kelvedon's Tracey Newman and Eastwood's Sharon Wakeling. Lynn Kelly (17.78) pulled off a 3-2 victory and claimed the match award prior to Braintree's Ann Farmer (15.40) recording her first win, winning 3-1 and pulled the team level. However, both Springfield's Leanne Peetoom and Steph Hewson lost out 3-1 giving Cornwall a 4-2 lead going into the Men's match.

The **Men's 'B'** roared into a 4-0 lead with Brightlingsea's Michael Hancocks (25.18) winning 4-1; Rayleigh Rascals Michael Pinnington (21.94) winning 4-1; Basildon's Malcolm Clark (22.48) winning 4-3 on his return to the team and Collier Row's in-form Bradley Halls (25.05) winning 4-0. Brightlingsea's captain, Alan Collins lost out 4-0 before his team-mate Allan Mathieson (27.08) got Essex back to winning ways with a 4-2 victory. Both Southend's Ben Adams (26.83) and Rayleigh Rascals' Lennie Holmes (26.20) also won 4-2 before Chelmsford's Craig Vickers lost out 4-3. Chelmsford's Simon Monk (24.11) recorded a 4-2 triumph before Tilbury's Wayne Gleed lost out 4-3. Brightlingsea's Kevin Edwards (31.87) produced a superb 4-1 victory on his return to county after a 6 season lay-off and claimed the man of the match award.

This 9-3 win for the Men's B meant that Essex went into Sunday's matches up 11-7; and Kelvedon's Stacey Ellis (24.20) extended that lead winning 3-1 in the opening set of the **Ladies 'A'** game. However, Essex lost the next four-sets with Clacton's Karen Breen and Chelmsford's Pauline Donat going down 3-2; Chelmsford's Wendy Collins lost 3-1 followed by Chelmsford's Sue Baker losing out 3-2. Springfield's Donna Gleed (19.58) won the final set 3-2 which included a 170 finish.

Therefore, with the scores at Essex 13 Cornwall 11; the **Men's 'A'** was a tough battle with Essex coming out 7-5 victors. Southend's Paul March (27.53) won 4-3 before Collier Row's Joe Russell lost out 4-0. Brentwood's Steve Johnson (27.03) and Canvey Starr's Phil Halls (28.09) battled out 4-3 victories before Southend's John Costigan lost a 4-3 contest. Collier Row's Jamie Peetoom lost 4-2 before Tilbury's Richie Howson (26.07) won 4-2. Cressing's Steve Haggerty and Brightlingsea's Tony Osborne lost out 4-3 & 4-1 respectively, and with Cornwall still in the hunt; it was Kelvedon's Phil Brewster (26.35) who won the next set 4-3, before Chelmsford's Andrew Kateley (27.89) sealed the weekend victory also winning 4-3; and finally, Collier Row's Darren Peetoom (26.57) secured the 'A' team win with a 4-2 win.

Essex travel to Northamptonshire in the next fixture and will be in good spirits to try and move Essex into a mid-table position.