

BRITISH INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

PREMIER DIVISION

GLAMORGAN VS ESSEX

Essex made their first of two trips across the River Seven this season for their first Rileys Premier Division Inter County match of the season against Glamorgan. Essex included four new faces into their Ladies squad and team manager Maureen Smee was justified in her selection as all four ladies won in the 'B' fixture on the Saturday.

With the format being returned to the ladies playing before the men it was important for Essex to improve on last season's poor performances. Good wins from all the debutants ensured this was going to happen. After going two nil down Chelmsford's Sally Grainger and Nicky Mynard together with former Suffolk player Nicky Bradley all won, but the most impressive performance came from Southend's Donna Russell who after a nervous first leg hit a maximum on the way to a lady of the match 3-1 win.

The mens 'B' match was one of tension and drama but little quality. Andy Burmby (70.74) and James Jennings (69.54) won the first two sets with lower averages than their opponents something which had already happened four times in the ladies match.

Glamorgan responded with two sets of their own before Martin Compton (70.98) and Jamie Robinson (70.14) kept Essex with their noses in front. However Harwich's Simon Cook (86.52) was the only quality Essex performance of the day as well as the only Essex win in the last five sets.

With the match score standing at nine sets apiece overnight the Essex Ladies 'A' ensured it was the visitors who gained some momentum early on. Braintree's Lucy Ward-Geddes with a maximum and a Lady of the match performance team mate Sue Waterman (63.90) gave the platform for the Clacton pairing of Viv Dundon (62.91) and Sheila Busby to give Essex a 4-2 victory.

The Essex mens 'A' team struggled in the same way their 'B' team counterpart's had done the day before. Having gone four nil down Mark Landers (84.60) put Essex on the scoreboard as he included a 121 checkout on the way to an impressive 3-1 win over Welsh International Wayne Davies (75.75). Essex then lost another before last seasons sensation Mick Peel (76.41) (Southend) hit a maximum on the way to starting a recovery. Colchester's Eddie Gosling (69.36) and Harwich's Peter Barton (64.41) continued the revival to put the visitors back in contention just one behind.

However two more Glamorgan wins left Riverside's Barry Adlam (77.40) needing a victory to secure a draw for the weekend, four legs later and Adlam had once again saved the day and made the long journey home a pleasant one.