

BRITISH INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

PREMIER DIVISION

ESSEX VS GLAMORGAN

Essex produced an emphatic victory against Glamorgan in their opening BICC fixture of the season. The Ladies 'B' set the weekend up with a solid performance. Clacton's Sheila Busby started the ball rolling whilst her daughter Julie Vickers was on of three Chelmsford Ladies who tasted victory, Wendy Reader and Lady of the Match Sue Baker the others, whilst Braintree's Lynn Kelly was another victor as Essex came out 5-1 winners.

If the Ladies 'B' team did well then their Male counterparts did just as well, winning the first nine sets on the trot. Southend's Stephen Hardy (27.34) picked up the man of the match in a tight 4-3 win whilst Saffron Walden's Wayne Bloomfield (23.96) also had a 4-3 win. Glamorgan had missed a couple of golden opportunities in these sets but Essex then won the next seven sets only dropping five legs in the process. Rayleigh Cavaliers Dan Day (24.46) and Mick McCombe (26.54) started the onslaught Walton's Alan Currivan (23.86) and Nick Groves (23.62) joined in Southend's Paul Marsh (23.93), Riverside's Dave Solly (23.58) and Springfield's Alan Collins (25.69) were the other winners before Glamorgan replied with two sets of their own. It was left to Springfield's Craig Vickers (27.17) to round off a 10 – 2 win and also a family treble following the earlier wins in the Ladies of his Mother and Grandmother.

The Sunday started as the Saturday had finished with Essex Ladies 'A' taking the honours. Braintree's Carol Pinfold and Stacy Ellis gave Essex a 2-0 lead before Glamorgan replied in kind however Clacton's Viv Dundon and Rayleigh's Donna Russell ensured last seasons Ladies 'A' champions started with a victory.

Essex were in an unassailable 19 – 7 lead when the Mens 'A' started and this was shortly to become 20 as Basildon's Phil Halls (26.85) picked up the first set, however Glamorgan kept their honesty and started to gain some momentum. Wins for Brentwood's man of the match and double maximum hitting Steve Johnson (28.25), Southend's Mick Peel (26.72) and Essex Captain Darren Peetoom (26.26) was not enough to prevent an 8-4 Glamorgan win.

The win for Essex was enough to put them joint top of the table with last seasons champions Yorkshire.