

RILEYS BRITISH INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

PREMIER DIVISION

ESSEX VS HAMPSHIRE

Hampshire were the visitors to Chelmsford Social Club over the weekend as Essex looked to push for a position in the top three of the Rileys British Inter County Championship Premier Division, whilst the visitors were desperately trying to stay out of the bottom two.

It was Hampshire who took the plaudits in the Ladies 'B' match as only Southend's Val Hawkins and Chelmsford's Wendy Johnson could muster wins for Essex. Hampshire's 4-2 took them to the top of the Ladies 'B' league with just two matches remaining.

The Mens 'B' match saw Essex dominate from start to finish. From the moment Colchester's Paul Walker (64.41) won the first set Essex were in cruise control. Riverside's Martin Compton (71.58) aided by a maximum made it two and Thurrock's Mick McCombe (66.30) made it three. Indeed only sporadic resistance from Hampshire was evident. Hockley's man of the match Shaun Walsh (79.11), Harwich's Kevin Edwards (77.19) with two maximums, Southend's Paul Barham (78.87) and the Springfield pair of Wayne Gleed (75.70) and Phil Brewster (73.41) with 3-2 wins completed an 8-4 win for Essex.

The Sunday started just as the Saturday had ended with Essex dominating proceedings. The Essex Ladies 'A' team completed a clean sweep and in doing so moved to the top of the table. Southend's Donna Russell (73.92) picked up lady of the match and scored a maximum, whilst her Southend team mate Nicky Bradley clocked up a 177 in her win. The Braintree pair of Sue Waterman and Amanda Dodd (65.04) picked up wins with Dodd checking out on 150 and 82 in her victory, whilst the Clacton duo of England International Viv Dundon (67.29) and Sheila Busby also eased through with Busby checking out on 111.

The mens 'A' match was all together a different affair with little to chose between the two teams. Colchester's Eddie Gosling (79.05) started Essex off with a win and Basildon's Dave Orton (75.15) kept the ball rolling hitting a maximum on the way to his win. Victories for three Harwich players Simon Cook (75.33), Alan Collins (85.77) and man of the match Scott Lawrie (93.93) kept Essex in the hunt but ultimately it was Hampshire who took the honours 7-5. Despite this setback Essex came out on top overall winning 21-15.