

BRITISH INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS
PREMIER DIVISION

ESSEX vs HAMPSHIRE

Chelmsford Social Club witnessed a great comeback, as the ladies struggled, and the Men were in superb form.

The **Ladies 'B'** lost the opening 4 sets, before Lynn Kelly (18.64) lay claim to the lady of the match winning 3-2 and Leanne Peetoom (15.19) winning 3-1 to give the score 2-4 to Hampshire.

The **Men's 'B'** started poorly as Tilbury's Wayne Gleed and Gidea Park's Joe Russell lost out 4-1 & 4-2 respectively; Kelvedon's Danny McIntyre (23.42) got an Essex point on the board, but Brightlingsea's Tony Osborne the next set 4-1. However, Essex fought back taking the next 7-sets with wins from Rayleigh Rascals Lennie Holmes (23.86); man of the match Richie Howson (29.43), Chelmsford's Matt Garrett (23.61), the Brightlingsea pair Jamie Robinson (27.49) and Allan Mathieson (23.61). Chelmsford's Simon Monk (24.14) recorded his first win winning 4-3 and Craig Vickers (24.41) won with the same score. The final set saw Rayleigh Rascal's Michael Pinnington make his debut, but lost out 4-3, therefore Essex found themselves 10-8 up going into Sunday's 'A' team games.

The **Ladies 'A'** had a disastrous day losing all 6-sets and to be fair, if doubles were hit, it could have been very different; Karen Breen, Stacey Ellis, Donna Gleed and Pauline Donat all losing 3-2.

This gave the **Men's 'A'** a big task needing 8-sets to avoid defeat and 9-sets to win the bonus points. Southend's John Costigan (30.95) got Essex off to a marvellous start and lay claim to the man of the man award; Chelmsford's Andrew Kateley (25.27) followed up also with a 4-1 victory. Essex lost out in the next 2-sets as both Jamie Peetoom and Bryan Margerison were beaten 4-1. However, Essex then turned on the magic and from 12-16 down overall won all the remaining 9-sets in some style. Southend's Steve Haggerty (29.31) and Kelvedon's Phil Brewster (28.06) won 4-1; Brentwood's Steve Johnson (27.35) won 4-2; Gidea Park's Darren Peetoom (26.44) won 4-1 before team mate Daniel Day (27.83) won 4-0. Southend's Wayne Bloomfield (23.48) won 4-1 as did Canvey's Phil Halls (28.35), and finally Southend's Paul Marsh (25.93) rounded off a 10-2 triumph.

The result was Essex 23 Northamptonshire 16 which lifted Essex up to 7th in the overall table, 3-points behind Hampshire. Essex's next fixture is an away trip to 2nd placed Yorkshire.