

BRITISH INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

PREMIER DIVISION

KENT VS ESSEX

Essex made the short trip over the Dartford crossing to take on Kent in the second round of Inter County matches. With the new format taking shape an even start was found with both sets of early players finding it hard to settle in the mens 'B' match. For Essex there were wins for Springfield's Ashley Evans (74.07) and former Kent man Rob Turner (80.61). The Ladies 'B' match started disastrously for Essex as Kent were first to hit the decisive double in each of the first three sets. It was then back to the men as Essex started to turn up the heat, Hockley's Jimmy Allison (79.29) is running back into form as he hit a maximum on the way to a 3-1 win and he was quickly joined in the winner's enclosure by Harwich's Jamie Robinson (75.54) and Cressings Tim Franklin (77.73). The Ladies completed a woeful afternoon by failing to take a single set and in doing so left the overall score sitting at Kent 9 Essex 5, however once again the men responded with set wins for Basildon's Dave Orton (84.81), Southend's Terry Rose (64.35) and finally Man of the Match for the second consecutive month Colchester's Coen Wiecamp (88.41) left the overnight score Kent 10 Essex 8.

It was an early start on Sunday and the Essex mens 'A' team were soon into their stride. Riverside's Alan Collins (82.68) together with the Harwich pair of Adrian Genery (68.88) and Scott Lawrie (74.76), all shared a car on the way down and all managed wins in the first four sets, the only Essex loser was Hockley's Gary Phipps (92.88) who was involved in the match of the day against Kent's Man of the Match Steve Douglas (94.80) as both players hit maximums. The Ladies took no time in breaking their duck for the weekend as Braintree's Amanda Dodd (61.38) and Clacton's Sheila Busby helped the Ladies 'A' to an early 2-1 lead. It was then back to the men and wins for Springfield's Man of the Match Darren Peetoom (86.70) and Colchester's Eddie Gosling (83.25) kept Essex with their noses in front. Viv Dundon (68.31) with a Lady of the Match performance pushed Essex ladies 3-1 ahead but back came Kent to level the match. With the match reaching its climax Kent won the first two sets in the final block of matches before Dave Orton (74.85) promoted from the 'B' team won the penultimate set of the weekend to leave Essex just one set behind. Barry Adlam (73.68) was the last man on but he found Kent's Paul Dawkins (77.73) too good on the day as the mens 'A' match was levelled up at 6-6 but the overall victory went to Kent, 19-17, for the first time in three years.

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