

BRITISH INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

PREMIER DIVISION

ESSEX VS KENT

Essex welcomed Kent for the second fixture in the British Darts Organisations British Inter County Championship. Both teams had struggled in their first fixture and an enthralling weekend ensued.

The Ladies 'B' match was dominated by Essex with Lynn Kelly taking the first set. Stacey Ellis who earlier in the year had reached the semi final of the Winmau World Masters Youth tournament was another Essex victor and she was quickly followed by former Kent player Wendy Reader, Sheila Busby and Lady of the Match Nicky Bradley (21.78) giving Essex a 5-1 head start on the weekend.

The Mens 'B' match started with Kent on fire taking the first three sets. It was Riverside's Dave Solly (23.14) who stopped the rot and that was the fillet Essex needed. Four more wins on the trot by Phil Halls (27.72), Mark Landers (25.91), Alan Collins (29.47) and Riverside's Man of the Match Andy Kateley (30.12) pushed Essex 5-3 ahead. Kent responded with the next two sets but Martin Compton (21.17) and steady Eddie Gosling (26.51) pushed Essex past the post and with it a lead of 12-6 going into the Sunday.

The Ladies 'A' fixture saw 5 Essex ladies topping the 20 average but only two managed to win as Kent looked to recover their losses from the Saturday. Amanda Dodd (20.59) and Lady of the Match Sue Condon (22.13) taking the plaudits.

The Mens 'A' match saw Essex dominate early on, this was followed by a strong Kent recovery with Essex having to take the final three sets to secure the draw.

Early wins for Steve Smith (25.65), captain Darren Peetoom (29.33) and Man of the Match Steve Johnson (29.47) saw Essex storm into a 3-1 lead, however Kent responded with interest taking the next five sets to leave Essex reeling 6-3 adrift and in danger of not winning a weekend they had been in total control of since mid afternoon on the Saturday. However a polished performance by Scott Lawrie (27.98) which included two maximums and a comfortable 4-0 win for Richie Howson (28.63) ensured Essex had won the weekend. It was left to the England Classic Runner up Jamie Robinson (27.45) to level the Mens match and with it give Essex a deserved 20-16 victory.