

BRITISH INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

PREMIER DIVISION

KENT VS ESSEX

Essex made the short trip across the Dartford Crossing looking to overcome a Kent team who had pushed Essex close in recent years.

The Ladies 'B' fixture saw Chelmsford's Lady of the Match Sue Baker (17.49), who included a 136 checkout, and Nicky Mynard (15.14) together with Braintree's Lynn Kelly (16.92) push Essex into a 3-1 lead, however Kent responded by picking up the final two sets.

Last month Essex Mens 'B' overcame Glamorgan 10-2 this time they went one better by beating Kent by eleven sets to one. With only Basildon's Mark Stafford (22.24) on the losing end and that was in the deciding leg. Rayleigh Cavaliers Dan Day (25.93) hit two maximums in his first set victory before Stafford was edged out. From there on in it was all Essex and when Kent had their opportunities they failed to take them. Springfield's Alan Collins (23.59) took the third set as Essex pushed on. Rayleigh Cavaliers Mick McCombe (22.40) was another double maximum hitter and his team mates Jimmy Allison (26.25) and Liam Pender (23.87) also picked off wins. The Walton pair of Nick Groves (21.90), who hit one maximum and a 100 checkout, and Man of the Match Alan Currivan (27.48) together with Saffron Walden's Wayne Bloomfield (25.62), Riverside's Craig Vickers (23.37), Rayleigh's Liam Showell (24.85) and Southend's Paul Marsh (23.81) completed the scoring.

Essex needed just five points on Sunday to complete the victory and their Ladies 'A' team ensured they wouldn't lose by winning four sets to two. Clacton's Viv Dundon (19.60) picked off the first set and this was quickly followed by Rayleigh's Sue Condon (20.62) taking the second. Braintree's Amanda Dodd (21.29) was another winner before Stacey Ellis (22.12) secured the Essex win.

Kent's men were in no mood to lie down and came out all guns blazing taking the first four sets without reply, however Riverside's Mr Essex Barry Adlam (21.78) took the pressure of the visitors by winning the fifth set. Adlam's Riverside team mate Dave Solly (23.20) picked up the sixth set. Basildon's Phil Halls (25.56) pushed Essex further ahead overall and Southend's Mick Peel (24.55) piggy backed off Halls win with a 4-2 victory. In the final set of the weekend Colchester's Eddie Gosling (27.23) picked up the Man of the Match and another Essex victory giving them a 23-13 overall win and keeping them joint top of the overall table with Yorkshire and Lancashire.