

BRITISH INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

PREMIER DIVISION

KENT vs. ESSEX

Essex travelled across the Queen Elizabeth II Bridge for the second fixture in the British Darts Organization's British Inter County Championship against Kent.

The Ladies 'B' started well with Lynn Kelly (18.33) taking the first set and the match award; Sharon Hawkins lost out 2-3 and Charlotte Halls just couldn't find a double. Carol Pinfold (17.74) pulled Essex level with a 3-1 victory, but that was it as Kent won the final two-sets for a 4-2 win.

The Men's 'B' match started with Essex taking the first two sets, with the Brightlingsea pair of Gavin Payne and Darren O'Neill winning 4-1 and 4-3 respectively. Mick Peel's double hitting deserted him as lost out to Mick Norris; George Cressey (Southend) on his Essex debut against his previous county lost out 4-3 in possibly the game of the day, scoring two maximums. Springfield's Wayne Glead put Essex back in front winning 4-1; Liam Pender (Tilbury) lost out 4-3 after pulling it back to 3-3 from 3-0 down. Walton's Bryan Margerison (27.69) once again gave Essex the lead and took the man of the match award for his efforts; Springfield's Robbie Turner (25.69) won 4-3, before Kent pulled it level with Stephen Hardy (Southend) and Tony Osborne (Brightlingsea) both losing out. Basildon's Craig Vickers and Springfield's Phillip Brewster gave Essex a well-deserved 7-5 victory, Craig winning 4-2 and Phil 4-1. With the score level going into Sunday, it was all to play for and both teams were up for it.

The Ladies 'A' started with intent with Stacey Ellis (22.10) winning 3-0 and lay claim to the match award. However Kent had other ideas and took the next three sets from Sue Baker, Steph Hewson and Sue Waterman. Southend's Donna Glead (20.59) dominated her 3-0 triumph, leaving Kelvedon's Amanda Dodd to level the scores in a hard fought draw.

The Men's 'A' match saw Essex dominate early on racing into a 6-1 lead. Colchester's Eddie Gosling (29.00) won the first set, followed by a 4-3 victory from Basildon Q-Ball's Ritchie Edhouse (27.13). Springfield's Alan Collin's lost the 3rd set 4-3 despite a maximum in the 7th leg. Riverside's Barry Adlam (27.35) won 4-1; Colchester's Wayne Bloomfield won 4-2 before Riverside's Rhys Hayden (32.34) took the man of the match award in a superb display. Basildon's Phil Hall's won 4-3 to ensure of at least a draw. Andy Fordham unusually had an off day on doubles before Southend's Paul Barham (26.93) gave Essex the victory. Craig Vickers lost out 4-3 and Colchester's Lee Wood was beat 4-0, however Essex Captain Darren Peetoom (26.50) was victorious in the final set to give Essex an 8-4 win.

Essex deserved their 23-16 victory and lie 3rd behind the usual suspects of Lancashire and Yorkshire.