

# **BRITISH INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP**

## **PREMIER DIVISION**

### **LANCASHIRE VS ESSEX**

The weather in Essex meant it was a slow drive up to Bolton to face a resurgent Lancashire team, who were sitting in second place at the start of play.

The Ladies 'B' match started as slowly for Essex as the drive up had done with the home Ladies opening up a 2-0 lead. Chelmsford's Julie Vickers edged the third set whilst her Chelmsford team mate Wendy Reader picked up a Lady of the Match award with a 3-1 win. However with the scores level it was Lancashire who held their nerve to come out 4-2 victors.

Essex Mens 'B' team needed a quick start in order to gain a foothold in the match, but it was Lancashire who started the quicker picking off the first three sets. Walton's Nick Groves (25.91) managed to win the fourth set, the Riverside pair of Martin Compton (24.44) and man of the match Dave Solly (26.53) pulled the scoreline back to 4-3 and with five sets to play Essex felt they were in with a real chance of getting something from the match. However Lancashire had other ideas, a plethora of missed doubles together with some high scoring and clinical finishing meant that Essex didn't win another set losing out 9-3 in the match and having a mountain to climb on the Sunday at 13-5 adrift.

Essex Ladies 'A' team immediately set about reducing the deficit Carol Pinfold (20.31) and Lady of the Match Amanda Dodd both had straight leg wins whilst their Braintree team mate Stacey Ellis (16.52) hit a maximum in a 16 dart deciding leg victory. With Rayleigh's Donna Russell (19.96) and Clacton's Viv Dundon (21.05) also winning Essex had won the first five sets. The final set brought together Rayleigh's Sue Condon (22.26) and Lancashire's England International Lisa Ashton (23.02), after a nervy first leg where both players missed doubles the final four legs were won in 20, 19, 21 and 19 darts with Ashton sneaking the last leg.

Essex Mens 'A' should have been buoyed by the Ladies performance however they couldn't quite find the significant doubles as Lancashire breezed home 9-3. Colchester's Robbie Turner (25.11), Springfield's Man of the Match Phil Brewster (27.87) and Riverside's Barry Adlam (25.63) the only Essex winners in a match which Lancashire won 23-13.