

BRITISH INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS PREMIER DIVISION

ESSEX vs Lincolnshire

Essex finished off the season with a 24-15 victory over Lincolnshire at Chelmsford; and an overall 3rd placing in the Premier division, which included the Men's 'B' finishing their section and the Ladies 'A' very nearly nicking their section.

The **Ladies 'B'**, who've had a mixed season, drew their seventh match with wins from Charlotte Halls, Steph Hewson and Wendy Reader (19.95) as lady of the match.

The **Men's 'B'** completed a fantastic season winning all nine games and the title with a 9-3 triumph. Brightlingsea's Tony Osborne (28.74) got Essex off to a winning start with Springfield's Craig Vickers taking the next set; Southend Ekco's Shaun Walsh was unlucky to lose the 3rd set before Essex rattled off the next three sets from Southend's Ritchie Edhouse (27.87), Paul Barham (28.82) laying claim to the match award and Clacton's Wayne Bloomfield (25.24). Essex lost the next two-sets 4-3; however, the next four-sets were wrapped up by Springfield's Phil Brewster (26.37), Southend's Daniel Day (26.98), Barry Lynn (26.58) and Southend Ekco's Michael McCombe (24.54).

A 12-6 lead going into Sunday's match and the **Ladies 'A'** didn't hold back the fact they'd had a disappointing season with their best performance, steaming into a 4-0 leading with all ladies winning 3-1; Stacey Ellis (25.12) claimed the match award in the opening set; Sue Baker (20.14), Carol Pinfold (22.04) and Donna Gleed (22.39) all victorious and there was a chance that they could pull off the title at this point; however it wasn't to be as both Lauren Bloomfield and Nicky Mynard lost out 3-2, and the ladies finished 3rd on countback.

With the men's team manager, Don Vickers, pounding the streets of London with his son Craig in the London Marathon, the **Men's 'A'** lost out 7-5 to finish 5th in the table. Rayleigh Rascals Mick Peel (26.51) won the opening set; Springfield's Robbie Turner (29.88) the third-set and Southend Paul March (31.81) the sixth-set. Essex Captain Darren Peetoom (33.85) claimed the man of the match award and Brightlingsea's Alan Collins (24.97) gave Essex a 5-3 lead; but Essex lost the final four-sets as Lincolnshire got the points they needed to survive.

In reflection, the Men's 'B' have been superb and it's now 21 games since they taste defeat; the Ladies have done extremely well considering the shambles of their Superleague this season; and after a few days of consideration, Mo Smee retired from Ladies Team Manager.

MR. ESSEX - BARRY ADLAM

It was an emotional farewell to Mr. Essex during the Lincolnshire match on Sunday, as Barry Adlam played his final County match. Barry has played an incredible 258 games over 30 seasons, making his debut on 15th September 1984 at Marconi's against Lancashire and has won 137 games with a running average of 26.13. Barry has won 33 Man of the Match Awards; with his best being against Middlesex at the Paddocks, Canvey on 5th April 1997.