

BRITISH INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS FIRST DIVISION

LONDON vs ESSEX

Essex travelled to Plumstead for a local derby against rivals London; and came away with a vital victory in Essex's attempt to bounce straight back into the Premier.

The **Ladies 'B'** drew in a tightly fought affair with 3-0 victories from Steph Hewson (17.68), against her mum, and lady of the match Wendy Reader (18.33); and Pauline Donat (15.56) winning the sixth set to secure the draw.

The **Men's 'B'** was a great match; John Costigan lost the opening set 3-0; but then raced into a 5-1 lead with wins from Jamie Peetoom (22.32), man of the match Andrew Kateley (31.31), Eddie Gosling (23.87) on his 200th appearance, Malcolm Clark (20.26) and Mike Hancocks (23.39). London rallied by taking the next 3-sets before Joe Russell (22.68) ensured the 6-points and Matt Garrett (22.84) winning the final set secure a 7-5 triumph and a 10-8 lead going into Sunday.

The **Ladies 'A'** started well with wins from Stacey Ellis (20.31) and Sue Baker (17.61); London levelled before Lady of the match Donna Gleed (21.78) and Leanne Peetoom (18.72) won sets 5 & 6 respectively for a 4-2 win.

A confident **Men's 'A'** stormed into the lead by taking the opening 5-sets, with wins from Tommy Wilson (22.29), Wayne Bloomfield (28.50), the man of the match Daniel Day (32.85), Alan Collins (22.48) and Craig Vickers (24.49) who also secured the weekend win for Essex. Steve Johnson (25.44) won the 7th-set; then Tony Osborne (24.24) secured the 'A' team win in the 10th set and skipper Darren Peetoom (25.23) took the 11th set making the scored 8-4 and an overall 25-14 victory to take Essex second in the promotion table a single point behind Cornwall.

The weekend also saw Daniel Day win the £200 best average and Andrew Kateley shared the 'B' prize money winning £50.