

# BRITISH INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS PREMIER DIVISION

## ESSEX vs NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

The next BICC Premier fixture was a very sad and emotional match with the sad loss of Julie Vickers 12 days prior to Essex's first ever meeting with Nottinghamshire. Every player, Official and supporter wore "Love Essex For Julie" wristbands and raised nearly £1,000 over the weekend for the Helen Rollason Cancer Charity and Heart of Darts, thanks to the girl's, Charlotte Halls, Leanne Peetoom and Steph Hewson.

The **Ladies 'B'** played three debutants and tried very hard in memory of Julie but couldn't produce the wins they so wanted; however they came close, it was just missed doubles which was a theme the whole weekend. Zara Rose, Rebecca Farmer and Dawn Kennedy all played their first games for Essex and were all unlucky to come off stage beaten. Essex victors were Charlotte Halls (14.06) and lady of the match Leanne Peetoom (19.98).

The **Men's 'B'** also suffered from missed doubles and after 23 games finally lost and find themselves already 13-points behind our next opponents Yorkshire. Rayleigh Rascals Mick Peel (24.74) and Brightlingsea's Tony Osborne (26.03) were the victors in the first half of the match; Brightlingsea's Joe Twinn and man of the match again, Chelmsford's Andrew Kateley (26.31), the winners in the second half giving Nottingham a 8-4 victory.

Going into Sunday 6-sets down, the **Ladies 'A'** suffered the same as the 'B', missing vital doubles as they went down 5-1 for the second month; and Stacey Ellis (17.16) was Essex's only winner.

The **Men's 'A'** were once again under pressure to save the weekend and although winning 7-5 could stop Essex from losing their second weekend of the season 25-14. The 'A' shot into a 2-0 lead with wins from Southend Barry Lynn (27.68) & Paul Marsh (28.13); what came next is probably the most memorable and emotional game in recent history, as Craig Vickers (24.35) took to the stage to play in memory of his Mum Julie, and won 4-2 and left the stage to a standing ovation from both teams and supporters. Clacton's Wayne Bloomfield won the fourth set, before Nottingham took the next two sets to win the weekend. The second half was shared with the three Essex victor's being Southend's Paul Barham (25.54) & Daniel Day (29.47) who was man of the match and finally Brightlingsea's Alan Collin.

Essex find themselves 8<sup>th</sup> in the main table with a difficult home fixture coming up against runaway leaders Yorkshire; Essex will need to find their form from last season to get themselves back on track.