

# **BRITISH INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP**

## **PREMIER DIVISION**

### **ESSEX VS OXFORDSHIRE**

It was third against fourth as Essex welcomed Oxfordshire to Chelmsford Social Club in the December BICC Premier Division fixture.

The Ladies 'B' match saw Essex get off to a flyer, despite the enforced absence of Sheila Busby who has broken bones in her leg and will be missing for the rest of the season. Braintree's Lynn Kelly picked off the first set before Oxfordshire came back to level. From this point it was all about Chelmsford Ladies with Nicky Mynard, Wendy Reader, Julie Vickers and lady of the match Sue Baker who was aided by a sixteen dart leg, seeing Essex home by five sets to one.

The Mens 'B' followed a similar pattern as Springfield's Alan Collins (27.45) picked up the first set before Oxfordshire levelled with their man of the match Damien Kidd (29.30) and from there on in it was Essex who dominated proceedings. Rayleigh Cavaliers Mick McCombe (21.81), Dan Day (25.69) and Liam Pender (25.18) all picked up good wins as did the Southend pair of man of the match Stephen Hardy (28.08) and Paul Marsh (26.54) other wins came from Colchester's Robbie Turner (23.81), Walton's Gavin Payne (22.71) and Saffron Walden's Wayne Bloomfield (23.03) giving Essex a nine three victory and an overnight lead of fourteen to four.

Sunday's Ladies 'A' match saw two of the divisions two best teams go head to head. Essex got off to the better start as Rayleigh's Donna Russell (19.78) and Sue Condon (19.64) together with Clacton's lady of the match Viv Dundon (20.59) pushed Essex into a three one lead, however Oxfordshire came back with Clare Bywaters (22.77). The last match on was niece vs auntie as Sue Baker (21.37) came up against Deta Hedman (29.47) and it was the Lakeside bound Hedman who included 14 and 16 dart legs in her 3-0 win levelling the match at three sets apiece.

Essex mens 'A' team had yet to fire on all cylinders this season whilst in comparison Oxfordshire had won both their previous matches. The weekend was completed with an emphatic 8-4 Essex victory to upturn the formbook. Springfield's Wayne Gleed (29.70) started the ball rolling but Oxfordshire came back strongly taking the next two sets. Riverside's Dave Solly (30.46) hit two maximums on the way to a 4-3 win over Dennis Smith (28.25) to square things up. Brentwood's Steve Johnson (31.51) put in a man of the match performance and Scott Lawrie (Walton) (27.79) hit two thirteen dart legs to close his set out. Southend's Mick Peel (26.87) put Essex 5-2 ahead but back came Oxfordshire with the next two sets. The Springfield pair of Phil Brewster (29.04) and Darren Peetoom (27.21) then ensured an Essex victory. This set up a last set shoot out between Colchester's Jamie Robinson (28.67) against John Jukes (29.89) who had beaten him in

an open competition final the week before. Both players traded legs but with the score two legs apiece Jukes picked off a 127 checkout to break the throw; however Robinson immediately broke back with a 115 checkout of his own. The final leg saw Robinson edge the leg to give Essex an overall 25 – 11 victory and with it a place at the top of the table.