

# BRITISH INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

## FIRST DIVISION

### OXFORDSHIRE vs ESSEX

Our trip to Bicester over fireworks weekend saw Essex get back to winning ways, April 2016 was the last time Essex recorded a weekend win and this victory was greatly needed in our quest to get back to the Premier Division.

The **Ladies 'B'** started well winning two of the first three sets; Chelmsford's Pauline Donat (16.31) won the opening set 3-1 plus the lady of the match award; Canvey's Steph Hewson (15.97) won the third-set 3-2. Braintree's Ann Farmer lost out 3-0 on her debut; both Wendy Reader and Zara Rose lost out 3-1 and Sharon Wakeling lost the final set 3-0.

The **Men's 'B'** got off to a great start with Phil Brewster winning 3-2 and debutant Mark Chapman (Chelmsford) winning 3-1; Rayleigh Rascal's Lennie Holmes lost out 3-2 before Chelmsford's Andrew Kateley (28.00) laid claim to the match award winning 3-1. Brightlingsea's Mike Hancocks lost 3-1; then Tilbury's Matt Barnard and Michael McCombe both won 3-2. An unlucky 3-2 defeat for Chelmsford's Matt Garrett in the 8<sup>th</sup> set was followed by a straight 4-set winning run from Joe Russell (Springfield) 3-2; Bryan Margerison (Brightlingsea) 3-2; Springfield's Jamie Peetoom (25.54) and Eddie Gosling (Colchester Town) 3-2 to give the 'B' team a well fought 9-3 success.

This gave Essex an 11-7 lead going into Sunday's 'A' games, and the **Ladies 'A'** didn't disappoint despite losing the opening set from Karen Breen (Clacton). Canvey's Donna Gleed won 3-2 before Kelvedon's Stacey Ellis (30.06) produced a fantastic 3-0 lady of the match performance; then Canvey's Leanne Peetoom followed it up winning 3-1. Chelmsford's Sue Baker was unlucky to lose out 3-2 prior to Kelvedon's Lynn Kelly winning 3-1 to wrap up a welcome 4-2 victory.

Captain Darren Peetoom (25.42) got the **Men's 'A'** off to a winning start with a 4-1 victory; Steve Johnson (Brentwood) lost 4-2, then Brightlingsea's Alan Collins battled out a 4-3 triumph. Essex lost the next 3-sets with John Costigan (Southend) and Wayne Gleed (Tilbury) losing 4-1 and Phil Brewster losing out 4-3. Southend's Paul Marsh (27.59) and Tilbury's Richie Howson (26.37) got Essex back on-track; Tony Osborne (Brightlingsea) was a 4-3 unlucky loser, before Essex won the final 3-sets from Craig Vickers (Springfield), man of the match, Southend's Wayne Bloomfield (28.09) and Canvey Starr's Phil Halls, giving the 'A' team a 7-5 win and Essex a 25-14 weekend victory leaving Essex 7<sup>th</sup> in the promotion table, 12-points adrift of Cornwall who sit on top.

Our next game is home to County Durham.