

BICC PREMIER DIVISION

SURREY VS ESSEX

Essex made the short trip to struggling Surrey for their latest Premier Division encounter and came away with a 25-11 win which stretched their lead over Yorkshire at the top of the table to seven points.

The Ladies 'B' team started brightly and 3-0 wins for the Chelmsford pair of Wendy Reader (17.48) and Nicky Mynard (17.68) as well as Braintree's Lady of the Match Carol Pinfold (18.11) who included a 108 checkout along the way ensured Essex were always in control and with Braintree's Jenny Powell (15.55) digging out a last leg decider Essex temporarily moved back to the top of the Ladies 'B' divisional table.

Essex Mens 'B' team were looking to continue their surge to the divisional title but Surrey were in no mood to allow them to walk away with the match. Springfield's Man of the Match Alan Collins (27.46) and Walton's Alan Currivan (24.39) both had to work hard ensuring that Essex held an even keel after the first four sets. Rayleigh Cavaliers Liam Pender (25.95) and Springfield's maximum hitting Kevin Edwards (25.34) pushed Essex 4-2 ahead and when Surrey picked up set seven it looked like being a really tight encounter. However Essex have spent all season digging out big results and this was to be no exception. Southend's Paul Marsh (24.97) came from two legs down to win a last leg decider and Colchester's Robbie Turner (23.21) was another to win in the deciding leg. This seemed to break the back of the Surrey challenge as Riverside's Craig Vickers (22.77), Southend's Richie Howson (23.34) and Colchester's Jamie Robinson (26.83) dropped just two legs between them as Essex ended up winning 9-3.

Essex Ladies 'A' continued their surge towards a third crown in four years with an emphatic 5-1 win. Braintree's Amanda Dodd (19.10) picked up the first set in the deciding leg and Clacton's Viv Dundon (20.59) quickly made it 2-0. Rayleigh's Sue Condon (18.63) lost out to the ever consistent Apylee Jones (19.52), but from there on in it was all Essex. Braintree's Stacey Ellis (22.77) has once again found her form as she picked up the Lady of the Match, and with Donna Russell (19.26) and Sue Baker (18.03) winning the last two sets Essex have a five point lead at the top of the table with just two matches remaining.

Essex were looking for a clean sweep of victories as their Mens 'A' team stepped up to the oche. Riverside's Dave Solly (28.55) hit two maximums on the way to a deciding leg win, but like their B team yesterday it needed a fourth set win to keep Essex on an even keel after four sets, Basildon's Phil Halls (26.90) hitting two maximums and a thirteen dart leg on the way to a deciding leg win. Southend's Mick Peel (25.04) and Riverside's Barry Adlam (28.67) pushed Essex into a 4-2 lead at the half way point. The Springfield pair of Phil Brewster (26.63) and the three times maximum hitting Darren Peetoom (31.65) ensured Essex of at least a draw and it was Brentwood's Man of the Match Steve Johnson (31.81) who hit two maximums and a 160 checkout giving Essex not only their

fourth win of the weekend but also an important extra point in their quest for the overall Premier Division title.

Next up for Essex are the ever improving Warwickshire who bring with them to Chelmsford Social Club the nine times Lakeside Ladies World Champion Trina Gulliver as well as Nigel Heydon who topped the Premier Division averages this weekend.